



THE GRAPEVINE

The magazine for the Parish of St Nicholas with St Barnabas' Kenilworth

May 2024

www.stnicholaskenilorth.org.uk



Sunday Services

St Nicholas' Church and Parochial Hall

8.30am Said Holy Communion at St Nicholas' Church,
Book of Common Prayer - on **first and third Sundays**.

10.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas' Church, with singing.
Family Praise - on the **second Sunday**
These services will also be livestreamed on [YouTube](#)



StN Kids on the **first and fourth Sundays at 10.00am** in St Nicholas' Church

6.30pm Choral Evensong on the **second and fourth Sundays** *Summer time*
NO Evening Services at St Nicholas' Church on first, third or fifth Sundays

Online: **Sundays at 10.00am** - livestreamed our Eucharist Service from St Nicholas' Church via our [YouTube channel](#), where you can also watch previous services.
Visit the church website at www.stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk and find the link for **Worship from Home** or [click here](#) for ways to take part in Sunday services on-line.



St Barnabas' Church

11.00am Morning Worship, with hymns on the **first, fourth and fifth Sundays**

11.00am Holy Communion on the **second Sunday**

Café Sunday 10.00am 3rd Sunday, now at **St Barnabas' Church**, Albion Street

Mid-Week Services

Tuesdays and Thursdays 7.45am Morning Prayer at St Nicholas' Church

Tuesday 11.00am 'Leavenses at St Barnabas' Church,

Wednesday 10.00am Mid-week Eucharist - on the **first Wednesday of each month** at St Nicholas' Church,

Thursday 4.30pm Evening Prayer at St Barnabas' Church

Please check newsletter or church notices for changes to regular services



St Nicholas with St Barnabas Kenilworth
*A Parish in the Church of England Diocese of Coventry
and Registered Charity 1126227*
e-mail: office@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk
www.stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk

The Vicar's Offering

May 2024

Over the last few weeks, I have been thinking a lot about seeing. I recently visited the optician for my annual eye test and reported that I often want to put the lights on in my living room, especially on a dull day, so that I can see better. She said that this was a sure sign we would need to increase my prescription, a prediction that turned out to be true. Suddenly I can see the detail on menu's in dimly lit restaurants much clearer than I could before.

Many of the bible readings during the Easter season we are currently travelling through as a church are about seeing, or mis-seeing. Mary Magdalene sees Jesus in the garden, but mistakes him for the gardener and on the road to Emmaus the disciples do not recognise the stranger walking and talking with them as Jesus. The same can happen in our daily lives. For example, we might be served in a shop by someone who we think is abrupt and rude. It can lead to a testy exchange, unless we stop to consider that maybe they had some bad news before they came to work that day. We see, and yet we rarely see the whole truth of a situation. To really see the truth of a situation we must look very closely and listen to the stories of others.

From 9th to 19th May, St Nicholas' and St Barnabas' churches will be marking the period between Ascension Day and Pentecost by getting involved in the global prayer movement, Thy Kingdom Come. Christians in more than 172 countries now take part, by each praying for five individuals. This year we will be doing this while focusing on the idea of seeing through the prayer practice of Visio Divina (Divine Seeing). Every day we will use a different image to help us pray for our five people.

We would love as many people to take part as possible and there are different ways that you can join in.

Join us at our Ascension Day Service and then every day for ten days to pray together. The Ascension Day Service is at 7.30pm. On the following days we will meet at 4pm. All at St Nicholas Church.

Visit St Nicholas' Church during the day, when it is open, to spend some time with our prayer station and complete the prayers in your own time.



Continued on page 4 

Continued from page 3 - The Vicar's Offering

Pick up a prayer Journal and 'Pray for 5' card at the back of St Barnabas' or St Nicholas' church and join in this wave of prayer from the comfort of your own home.

When we pray, we often see God a little clearer. My hope is that through the month of May and the prayers we offer that we, and all those that are prayed for across the globe, will come to see God a little clearer.

Every Blessing

Eira

Rev Eira



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THE GRAPEVINE



Dear readers ...

We hope you enjoy this edition of
The Grapevine magazine.

The Online edition is free. A small number of printed copies of **The Grapevine** will also be available in church for a donation of £1.00

The online edition has interactive [links](#) which were all working at the time of the copy date. Should you find one not working, please contact me so that I can correct it.

If you wish to contribute, my copy date is currently the 25th of the previous month, (see page 29 for details)

Editor

A huge thank you to everyone who helped at or attended the **Spring Tea** on the 10th April in the Parochial Hall

We all had a very enjoyable time and raised a wonderful **£612.00** for the Children's Society. A great result, thank you all again,
Margaret Rogers.



Marion and Sue and her Mum



'Tables laden with dainty sandwiches, light-as-a-feather homemade cakes, scones, jam and cream - and a debate ensued as to which order to assemble them. The conclusion was that it didn't matter one iota, they tasted good either way!

Happy chatter bounced round the room amongst the guests who represented a number of local churches. It was a coming-together in the most enjoyable way to raise funds for The Children's Society - and enjoy a special, splendid afternoon.'



Thelma Mitchell

Friday mornings coffee and chat

Each Friday, from 10.15 to 11.30am. Please do come along and catch up with friends while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits in St Nicholas' Church.



St. Nicholas' Ladies Group

Dear All

At our last meeting in April The Ladies' Group were treated to a "Time Travellers Guide to Tourism" with an excellent talk by Jo Golby who came from Leicestershire.

She came dressed as a ladies maid who went travelling with gentry and therefore enjoyed seeing the world with her Mistress on Steam ships, trains; she followed on talking about buses, cars, caravans, camping and camper vans, she showed us souvenirs, postcards. Jo was thoroughly entertaining.

Our next meeting is on **7th May** when **Kate Harrison** will talk about "**Foot Care**" in St. Barnabas' Church at **7.30pm**.

Ladies welcome to attend.

Coffee Wives at the Almanack

Coffee Wives takes place at the Almanack every third Monday of month at 10:30am. This is just a social and chat - putting the world to rights!



Our next Coffee Wives is on **Monday, 20th May, 10.30am to 12.00 noon**.

Thanking you

Gill Peppitt, Secretary 01926 512209

Wednesday Study Group

The Wednesday Study group will next meet on May 8th and 22nd at 2.30pm in St Nicholas' Church.

We have completed the study we had been doing of the book of Acts. We will be starting a new study of **the Holy Spirit**. Anyone who would like to come and join us would be most welcome.

We generally meet in St Nicholas' Church from 2.30 - 4.00pm on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.



the

Heather Alford 01926 858308



From the Belltower

Ringling Outing to Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire

The Bellringers have been fortunate in having the support of Warwick University student Eden Horwood for the past few years and, as she will graduate and leave us this summer, Eden kindly volunteered to organise a ringing outing in the vicinity of her home tower of Wing in Buckinghamshire. This took place on the lovely warm, spring day of Saturday 13th April when a band of 20 bellringers, including some family members who ring elsewhere and our latest recruits Seth (age 9) and Tadhg (age 11), plus some support from the local tower members, rang at the churches of St Michael's and All Angel's Church, Stewkley (8 bells), All Saint's Church, Wing (6 bells), St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Wingrave (8 bells), and All Saints' Church, Leighton Buzzard (12 bells).

These Churches presented new challenges for many of us, the bells being generally much heavier than heavy our own, particularly at Leighton Buzzard where the tenor weighs some 1800kgs compared to Kenilworth's 750kgs. This church also had the benefit of 12 bells rather than the 6 we have, so we had much pleasure in practising our campanological skills on what are relatively new bells. The previous ring of 10 bells was lost in a disastrous fire in 1985, which also destroyed the chancel roof and severely damaged the nave roof, caused serious structural damage to the tower, spire, and the vestry areas, damaged several of the windows beyond repair and destroyed both the organs.

We enjoyed the benefit of the Café in the Church at Wing as well as the mandatory pub lunch at the nearby Grove Lock pub, both providing welcome and necessary sustenance as we all faced the various challenges of what was an excellent day's outing.



Photos: The beautiful churches of All Saints, Wing and All Saints, Leighton Buzzard



Photo: The ringers at Leighton Buzzard

The Flower Guild

Hello everyone

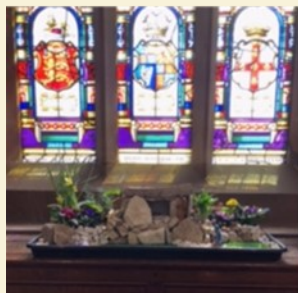
It is a real joy to see the gardens bursting forth with leaf and flowers. Everything this Spring has lasted quite a while and the Magnolias were magnificent!

This brings me to the congregation and visitors to church who were so generous with their praise and donations for our Easter offering. The flowers lasted very well and it was sad to take them down.

A reminder that there is a workshop on **Saturday 11th May**, in church with a 10.30am start. There will be a floral sales table. We look forward to seeing you there!

Kind regards to you all.

Annie



The Flower Guild - Workshop



Hello everyone,

isn't it lovely to have the better slightly warmer weather with us and, despite the wind, it have been a beautiful Spring.

Our next Workshop will be on **Saturday, 11th May** at the usual time of **10.30am** in **St Nicholas' Church**, when I will demonstrate a semi-crescent design.

This is a traditional shape and a lovely soft flowing design. For those wishing to join in the workshop afterwards, I know that you will enjoy doing it and find it rewarding.

Everyone is welcome, so please bring your friends and family along for a morning of fun with flowers. We will look forward to welcoming you.

Recipe for a Semi-crescent design

- ☼ A pedestal container, approximately 12in tall. This could be a jug, a candle stick with a container on the top or a tall vase.
- ☼ Foam, which will be for sale on the day.
- ☼ A selection of soft foliage's, e.g.
- ☼ Fern, Pittosporum, Eucalyptus or anything you have which is soft and flowing.
- ☼ A few single leaves, e.g.
- ☼ Ivy, Heuchera, Hosta (the Hosta is very new so please condition it well)
- ☼ A bunch of Roses
- ☼ A spray Carnations and Freesia

Choose delicate flowers, so no Chrysanthemums or Lilies. Try to think of things in season and have a look at what is coming into flower in the gardens.

If you have any queries please call me 01926 777367

Barbara Sheppard

This month's cover:

Welcome. Easter wreath on the West doors of St Nicholas' Church - see pages 10 & 11 for more photographs of Easter in the Parish

Easter and Holy Week 2024



Good Friday in Kenilworth





*Christ has Risen.
He has risen, indeed. Alleluia*

News from St Nicholas' Parish Choir, Kenilworth

It is nearly 38 years since the first female joined St Nicholas' Church Choir, Kenilworth. Before the event, the church choir was men and boys, and had been so for at least a century.

As a result of an advertisement for new choir members, Ruth Casselden applied, and attended her first choir practice. It wasn't until then that she realised that everyone else was male.

Over the years, Ruth has not only been the lead in the Alto Section of the choir but has also taken on the mantle of Choir Secretary. She provides liaison between the choir and the Musical Director and the clergy, providing the choir with a Practice Calendar, organising the Choir Library, and organising the Choir Robes.



Ruth's dedication and service to the choir and the church has gone unrecognised until now. During the Sunday morning service on 21st April, Ruth was presented with a Royal School of Church Music enamelled medal of "Loyal Service" in recognition of the, much valued, contribution she has made.

The presentation was made by our Parish Priest, The Reverend Richard Moore, in company with Musical Director, James Hunt, on behalf of the vicar, The Reverence Eira Hale, following an introduction by choir member Mervyn Kimberley.

Mervyn Kimberley

Why not sponsor the Flowers at St Nicholas' Church?

Celebrate a special occasion, a birthday, wedding anniversary, etc. or in memory of a loved one.

Flowers can be sponsored through the Flower Guild or contact the parish office.

(Contact details on Who's who, pages 34-35)



Lego Club @ St. Barney's



Lego Clubbers are thoroughly enjoying the summer term after-school activities at St. Barnabas'. The format stays the same – a warm welcome from 3.30 on Tuesdays, hot toast and jam in abundance, plus squash, fruit and other snacks, tea for the carers. After a short prayer and Bible story at 4pm we hit the bricks for an hour! The children, assisted by the helpers and carers, who enjoy it as much as they do, build models based around the Bible story and eat on the hoof – they are always so hungry straight after school! There is a really good feeling of community amongst us, and a warm welcome given to newcomers.

We were glad to see some new children last term, as well as the faithful returners. Our holiday extra at Easter was very popular so we are having another Lego Club extra on Wednesday 29th May, from 10am until 12.

The younger children – and grown-ups! - love the Lego. We have also some Meccano for any older children who come, if they prefer it. The interpretations of the story in the model making are becoming ever more ingenious, thanks to the skill and imagination of the children. It is a fun way to learn together about what Christians believe.



Lego Club @ St. Barney's

Lego Club is back for the new term!

Where? St. Barnabas' Church, Albion Street, Kenilworth

When? Doors open for hot toast and squash at 3.30pm

What? At 4pm - a Bible story and lots of Lego as well as Meccano until 5pm

Who? A warm welcome for ages 5 to 11 years and carers

DATES for this term: 7th May, 14th May, 21st May, 28th May.

HALF TERM: Lego Club extra on Wednesday 29th May, 10am – 12noon

Then back for the second half of the summer term on 11th June

INNER STILLNESS

Do you have a yearning for an elusive inner stillness? In an increasingly unsettled world, whether that is the tragedy of Gaza and Ukraine or something more local and less violent but unsettling nevertheless such as the disruption and destruction wreaked by HS2 where do you go to find peace of mind and a sense of renewal. This feeling of being out of sorts is of course nothing new; for those seeking something beyond the tumult the psalmist wrote,



*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble (Psalm 46.1)
Be still and know that I am God (46.10)*

The problem is, where do you go to find that stillness, a spring clean for a troubled mind? This is a great time of year to get out discover and rediscover the far reaches of the parish and beyond and immerse oneself in the landscape where larks are rising and buzzards soaring. Alone or with a companion or even better perhaps a dog or two, the footpaths around Kenilworth offer ample opportunity for inhaling some fresh air, not only sweeping away the cobwebs and making room for renewal and replenishment but putting us close to God's creation story. Now I am well aware that not everyone will be over-enthused at the prospect of an afternoon spent in muddy boots and a damp Barbour jacket but are still in search of tranquillity. We are fortunate in Kenilworth to be situated in a community where it is still possible to leave the churches unlocked during daylight hours. Both St Nicholas' and St Barnabas' are open daily throughout the week to anyone and everyone between the hours of 9am and 5pm. There is a peacefulness to be found in both churches in the absence of worship and congregation. Each church has an atmosphere unique to itself; St Barnabas' light, intimate, St Nicholas' vast and ancient. Should you venture inside you are, of course, never entirely alone, God is in attendance both outside and within, you may feel his presence. Writer and former Bishop of Edinburgh wrote in his book *Leaving Alexandria* (Canongate Books 2013) of the virtues of the unclosed church and contrasted two people you might encounter,

Here both are accepted in their helplessness. There is no reproach.

Churches do not speak; they listen. Clergy speak, unstoppably.

Poet and self-confessed atheist Philip Larkin acknowledged in his poem, *Church Going*.81, 'the ghostly silt' – the strange power a church can exercise over those who visit it. I would contend that the

Continued on page 15 ➞

May 9th – May 19th



Thy Kingdom Come

is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray on the nine days between Ascension Day and Pentecost, for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the

Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. God has grown this dream of a possibility into a movement. Christians in more than 172 countries now take part.

Here at St Nicholas with St Barnabas we want to be a part of this international wave of prayer.

We ask you to:

- ***Think of five people who you would like to pray for***

Look out for The Prayer Journals, pray for five cards and pray for five cords which will be at the back of both St Nicholas' and St Barnabas' churches. Please take them and prayerfully think about the five people you will promise to pray for.

At the service on Ascension Day, May 9th the **Thy Kingdom Come** prayer journal will be introduced and there will be copies for you to take home to use for the next ten days. On each of these days there will also be the opportunity for you to join with others to pray together at 4.00pm in the Lady Chapel of St Nicholas' Church

- ***Continue to remember those five people in your prayers for the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost***

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby.

Heather Alford

Continued from page 14 - Inner stillness

'strange power' is the accumulated prayers of the faithful, and the not so faithful who have sought consolation and refuge and maybe experienced an unexpected encounter with the risen Christ. The unclosed church accepts us as we are without reproach and offers up hope for our unreconciled natures. In the beauty of the outdoors or within the stillness of a church my prayer for you all this coming month is an inner peace and your own encounter with Jesus Christ, the one who for us was crucified, died and rose again.

Reverend Richard Moore

Café Sunday

St Barnabas' Church, 21st April 2024 - Lost Sheep

The first thing my four year old said to me on Sunday morning was 'Yay! It's Café Sunday today!' He loves it and it is great to see enthusiasm from children about going to church. However, this is not just a children's playgroup, it is a church service aimed at children and adults alike. There is a whole mix of ages present, including families, but also members of the local community who have come for a more relaxed form of worship.



There is always a warm welcome when you arrive, as well as a hot cup of tea or coffee and a croissant or two. There is then a bit of time to catch up, and meet people before the service starts. There are craft activities (lots of sheep creating!) and normally some toys and lego, which keep the children entertained. They can continue with their play/crafts throughout the service- although they are also engaged through songs, videos and other interactive forms of worship.

We started with a short fun quiz to help get to know each other a bit better and to help us celebrate our differences in the ways we do things. We discovered there are some of us who like to follow instructions when making a cake or building some Lego and some of us who don't! We then had the story of the lost sheep, and talked about how God will support those who are lost and looking for a way or direction.





We had some prayers led by some of older children, and then we created a patchwork quilt of personal prayers.

Our music group, as always, did a great job in leading us in song throughout the service, and as is customary ended with lots of bubbles which helps add to the feeling of worship and celebration. This was Eira's first Café Sunday, and she

ended in grace, as we thanked God for our time together.

If you would like to come along to Café Sunday, please do join us every third Sunday of the month. **The next ones are on the 19th of May and 16th of June.**



Ann Darvill

St Nicholas' Church Teas return on Sunday, 12th May, 2.30 - 5.00pm

We welcome you all to come and enjoy pots of tea, filter coffee and homemade cakes, served Café style, in the beautiful surroundings of St Nicholas' Church and outside, weather permitting.

All income goes to Parish Funds.

Every second Sunday of the month, throughout the summer.

Volunteers to help with cake making and serving are always welcome.

Please contact Janet on 01926



13th-20th May

Mental Health Awareness week

As this month we observe Mental Health Awareness Week, it would be well worth especially praying for our young people.

The Children's Commissioner for England has recently warned that our nation's children are still facing a mental health crisis, following the isolation and loneliness of the pandemic.

And now, Dame Rachel de Souza warns that too many of these children are being kept waiting "far too long" for professional support. She found that, of the 949,200 children and young people referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in 2022-23, more than 270,000 children and young people are still waiting to be seen.

Dame Rachel says: "This generation of children has experienced uniquely uncertain and challenging times. Some have spent some of their most formative years isolated and indoors, fearful they or their loved ones may catch a deadly virus.

"They have felt the squeeze of a cost-of-living crisis, and they are keenly aware of the pressure their parents are under. They are constantly bombarded by negative news, of wars and climate catastrophe. And an increasing number are exposed to the harmful impact of social media, cyber bullying, and online exploitation."



She continued: "Against this backdrop, it is not surprising that we continue to see the number of children experiencing poor mental health at persistently high levels."

The Parish Pump

Christian Aid Week 2024

**Christian Aid Week
12th – 18th May**

Christian Aid is urging its supporters to 'push back against poverty this Christian Aid Week' by bearing in mind the coming General Election.

The charity says that people hoping to represent us in the next UK Parliament will soon be on our doorsteps, vying for our vote.

Christian Aid says that these would-be MPs will: "be in listening mode, keen to hear what makes the voters in their community tick." And so, urges the charity, Christians can use this opportunity to "show them that your church cares about poverty, and tell them that you expect them to act on poverty too, if they are elected."

This year the charity has launched the '70K Challenge for May', encouraging its supporters to do a sponsored "Move 70km during May. Walk, run, cycle, however you move is up to you." Details at:

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk>

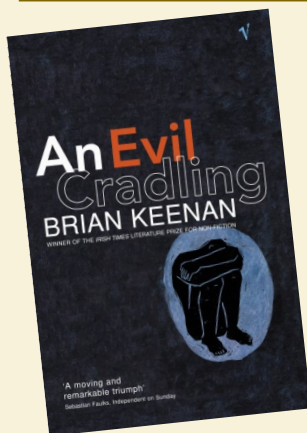
STATIONS OF THE CROSS - POSTAL STAMPS

This sheet of 14 stamps was issued by **Ajman** for **Easter in 1972**.

Ajman is a State in the Persian Gulf where people read from right to left, which is how this sheet of stamps has to be viewed.



Stamps kindly submitted by Ray Sheppard



An Evil Cradling

By: Brian Keenan

Publisher: Vintage



I was about to suggest a book that might appeal to readers, when my attention was drawn to an obituary in the paper of Terry Anderson, a Western journalist taken hostage in 1985 by Hezbollah in Lebanon and held, often in solitary confinement, for six agonisingly long years. I then remembered that I had on my bookshelves a book by

Brian Keenan on his experiences when he was taken hostage in Lebanon in the same year, but in a completely different incident. Although probably out of print, 'An Evil Cradling' is well worth finding and reading, if you have ever thought about what it might be like if you found yourself in a similar plight.

Brian Keenan, an Irishman, was teaching in Beirut University when he was kidnapped by fundamentalist Shi'ite militiamen and held in the suburbs of the city for the next four and half years. For much of the time he was isolated from all news and contacts with anyone except his jailers and, later, his fellow hostages, among them John McCarthy, with whom for a time he shared a cell.

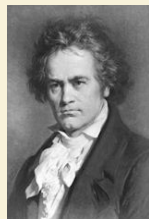
Perhaps because he comes from Belfast and has experience of 'The Troubles' Keenan is good at getting not only into the mind of his captors and what drives them to behave in such a fashion, but also at exploring his own reactions to his predicament. He tells his story unflinchingly, sparing no detail. This book is a remarkable and insightful description of what it must be like to suffer such cruelty, yet with an understanding of his own reactions. Sometimes one feels he is too harsh with himself, considering what he has gone through.

Sebastian Faulks reviewing the book wrote that it is a 'moving and remarkable triumph'. I think, if you read it, you will agree.

Bookworm

*This Month
in History
1824*

200 years ago, on 7th May 1824 the first performance of **Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 9** took place in Vienna. It is regarded as Beethoven's greatest work and is one of the most-performed symphonies in the world.



Eco Fayre

local eco groups
plastic-free living
reusables
wildlife
home energy advice
active travel
local producers
plant swap
creative crafts
biodiversity
recycling
local growers
repairing
refurbishing
activities for kids
art & craft



Saturday 18th May
10am-1pm **FREE** entry
Kenilworth Methodist Church
Priory Road CV8 1LQ

Inspiration for all!

**Ideas to spark imaginations,
enthusiasm to motivate,
advice to support change,
fun activities for all ages,
Fairtrade and homemade
refreshments to share.**

**Please come on foot, bike or bus
and park any cars at the station.**

**Email ecofayre@lovekenilworth.org.uk
for more information or view the
Kenilworth Eco Fayre
Facebook page.**

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

biodiversity change creativity
energy resilience ideas
nature



The Revd. Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of music.

May is traditionally the month of Mary, the mother of Jesus. When we read of Mary in the Gospels, we sense the heartache and trial of much of her life: a teenage mother giving birth in a stable, fleeing with her new-born baby and Joseph to Egypt, losing the child Jesus while on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, following her son on His ministry but always in the background, and there at the foot of the cross as her Son is crucified. It is then Mary must have thought back to that occasion in the temple when Simeon took her child and told her that a sword would pierce her own soul.

That sense of heartache and the sorrow it brings is poignantly expressed in a beautiful poem of the Middle Ages called *Stabat Mater*, which pictures Mary at Calvary and that sword of desolation and sadness that pierces her soul. We are not sure who wrote this poem. It is ascribed to Jacopone da Todi, who became a Franciscan friar on the death of his wife in the 13th century. The contemplation of Mary's sorrows in the *Stabat Mater* has inspired many composers, and there are wonderful settings by Palestrina, Rossini, Dvorak, Verdi and Poulenc.

This month let's focus on a very simple setting, but one that captures those searing pangs of sorrow at the heart of the poem. It is by Antonio Vivaldi, who was born in Venice in 1678. In 1703 he was ordained a priest, but by then he had made his name as a skilled violinist and composer. He continued to compose throughout his life: a vast amount that includes some 40 operas (though only 18 survive), 400 concertos, and over 100 choral works. In 1730 Charles de Brosse described him as 'an old man with a prodigious fury for composition.' For much of his life Vivaldi was music director of the Ospedale della Pietà, a music school for girls. Then in 1740 he left Venice hoping for preferment in Vienna. That was not to be, and his final days were marked by poverty and neglect, and in 1741 burial in a pauper's grave.

Most of us know Vivaldi through the brilliance and colour of 'The Four Seasons' and his setting of the Gloria. The tone is more restrained in his setting of the *Stabat Mater*. There is a very fine CD recording entitled 'Vespers of Sorrow' where the work is linked to a sonata, a psalm setting and the Magnificat for an imagined celebration of our Lady's feast.

The *Stabat Mater* is a long poem and Vivaldi restricted himself to setting eight verses for contralto and strings: the solo voice standing for Mary as she sings of the despair and agony as the mother of Jesus.

The opening verse, 'At the cross her station keeping' captures the intensity of emotion with the throbbing rhythms of the accompaniment – that mood recurs throughout the work. And then with the verse, 'Eja Mater, fons amoris' (O thou Mother! Fount of love!) the violins and viola accompany without any bass instruments. It is a pivotal point in the work as the solo voice cries out 'Mater' across the heights and depths of the music,

leading into the prayer that the love of Mary will touch all human hearts. The final verse set by Vivaldi begins 'Make me feel as thou hast felt,' and so Mary stands for all mothers who have lost loved ones: perhaps sons killed in Afghanistan, perhaps daughters dying through disease.

Mary's love for Jesus, her son, touches the hearts of them and of all parents. Hers was a protective, sacrificial love that led her to the foot of the cross, where Jesus gave His mother and John, the beloved disciple, into the care of each other. The sacrificial love of a mother mirrored in the sacrificial offering of her son in death.

Julian of Norwich meditated on this motherly love in her Revelations. In chapter 60 she wrote, 'A mother's caring is the closest, nearest and surest for it is the truest... As we know, our own mother bore us only into pain and dying. But our true mother Jesus, who is all love, bears us into joy and endless living. Blessed may he be!' So the protective care of mother Mary cries out to us in Vivaldi's setting of the Stabat Mater. The closing lines of that poem look to Christ's maternal love like Mother Julian:

'Christ when Thee shall call me hence,
Be my mother, my defence,
Be thy Cross of victory.'

Revd Michael Burgess - The Parish Pump

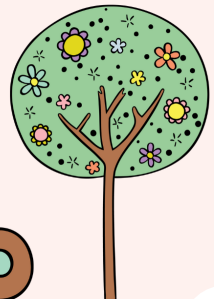
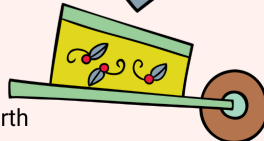
ST NICS GARDEN GANG

**HOLIDAY CLUB FOR PRIMARY AGED
CHILDREN**



**MONDAY 5TH - FRIDAY 9TH
AUGUST 9:30 - 11:30AM**

St Nicholas parochial Hall, High Street, Kenilworth



On the perils of building a kitchen in church

The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace,' the vicar of St James the Least of All, to his recently ordained nephew, Darren...



The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

It never fails to amaze me how, in church life, an issue can suddenly become an Issue. In the last month, we have acquired an Issue: a proposal to convert a space at the back of church into a kitchen. Inevitably, battle lines have been drawn and trenches dug. Attendance at church council meetings has soared and unofficial sub-committees meet in the car park after Services. It's obvious that feelings are running high, because people have become remarkably polite to one another.

Some who are wildly in favour see it as an opportunity of being able to leave the pews ten minutes early, in order to get ready for the rush for weak coffee and damp biscuits. I can already hear in my mind the final hymn being drowned by kettles being filled, biscuit tins opened, cups thunderingly placed on saucers, while the volunteers discuss the dress sense of others in the congregation in deafening whispers.

I was a little surprised to hear that Colonel Wainwright was all in favour – until I realised that it would give him a place to totter into to read his newspaper once he got bored with my sermon, which usually seems to happen in the first minute. Naturally, smaller turf wars have broken out alongside the major battle. There is conflict about whether we should get new crockery, what colour carpeting tiles would look right – and most importantly of all, who will take charge of the coffee rota.

Others are totally against the project: the treasurer dreads the thought of signing yet more cheques, the churchwardens worry about removing pews which have quietly hidden the dry rot, and the theologically angst-ridden agonise about the fact that St Paul never mentioned coffee after Sabbath worship.

Naturally, I encourage all sides, especially if it will bring any possibility of progress to a halt. I proposed bringing in flasks of coffee, thus stopping anyone being able to escape before the end of the Service; I suggested drinks being brought to people in the pews, thus ruining the Colonel's hopes of finding a safe haven; I organised a group to study High Priestly attitudes to refreshments in the Temple in Jerusalem in Leviticus.

I am sure that by the time all these groups have come up with their conclusions, we will have safely moved on to fight the next Issue.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Grandparenting for Faith: Sharing God with the children you love the most

By Becky Sedgwick, BRF, £9.99

Part of the joy of being a grandparent is to help your grandchildren learn to have confidence in God's love for them.

This book will encourage grandparents to be a unique voice, speaking into their grandchildren's lives, and helping to nurture them into the reality of a relationship with the God who loves them..

Neighbourhoods Reimagined – How the Beatitudes Inspire our Call to be Good Neighbours

By Chris McKinney and Elizabeth McKinney, 10Publishing, £8.99

Somewhere along the way many of us drifted away from our next-door neighbours, and now we're not sure we can get back again. We are unsure of how to befriend them and how to spot opportunities of sharing God's love with them. How can the countercultural values of Christianity affect our them, and our neighbourhood?

Believing the beatitudes are Jesus' invitation into neighbourhood flourishing, Neighbourhoods Reimagined envisions how these upside-down values can turn our corners right-side-up..

The Best of Friends – Choose Wisely, Care Well

By Phil Knox, IVP, £10.99

Friendship is unparalleled as a building block of society, a universal theme in great literature and film, and has a huge impact on our mental health, wellbeing and happiness. But many of us are lonely or feel suffocated by the pressures of life and quantity of relationships we have to maintain. Now, more than ever, we need better, deeper friendships. We need the best of friends.

Full of practical advice, humour and wisdom, Phil Knox shows us how to choose our friends wisely and maintain lasting and meaningful relationships.

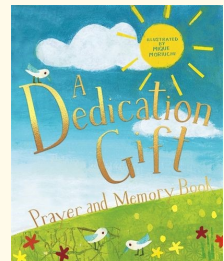
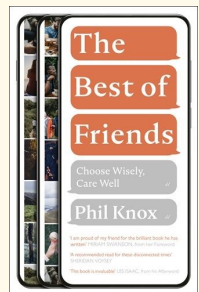
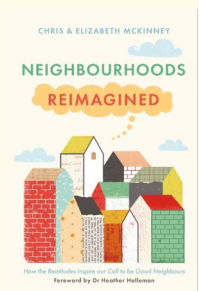
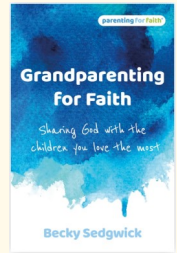
A Dedication Gift Prayer and Memory Book

By Various Authors, SPCK, £8.99

This illustrated gift book for a young child's dedication offers a collection of prayers, Bible verses, and pages for recording details, memories, and messages of the special occasion.

Parents can add memories of their child's dedication with spaces for photos and special blessings from the guests, as well as recording key milestones in their child's early years.

The book would make a good gift for a grandparent, godparent, or family member, to give to a young child.

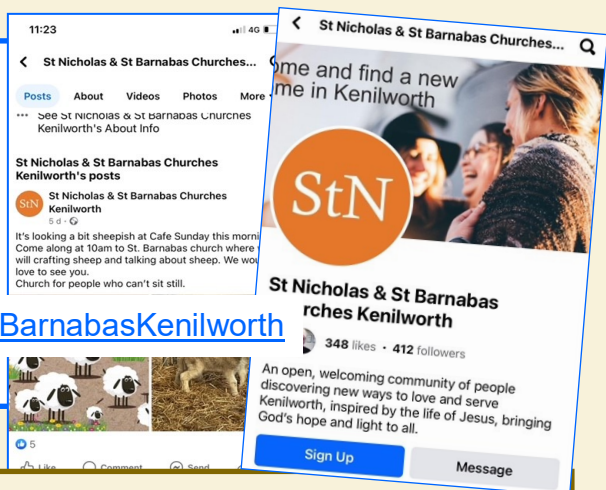


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[Facebook.com/StNicholasStBarnabasKenilworth](https://www.facebook.com/StNicholasStBarnabasKenilworth)



This Month in History 1874

The man who created Father Brown

The British writer **G K Chesterton** was born **150 years ago**, on **29th May 1874**, in Kensington, West London. A novelist, short story writer, philosopher and critic, he was best known for his Father Brown stories, popular now through their



adaptation for television.

He thought of himself as a journalist with good reason, composing 30 years of weekly columns for the *Illustrated London News* and more elsewhere, but he was a prolific writer in many areas, writing 100 books and contributing to 200 others, as well as composing short stories, essays and poems and creating Father Brown.

He was a tall man who weighed in at over 20 stone, and he was notoriously absent-minded – once contacting his wife, Frances, to say: “Am at Market Harborough. Where ought I to be?” Unsurprisingly, he did a great deal of writing while waiting at stations.

He was a deep thinker, usually getting the better of the many prominent men he argued against, but almost invariably retaining their goodwill, since he was a genial and witty opponent.

An “orthodox Christian” who espoused Roman Catholicism (moving from High Anglicanism) because he felt it was the best resistance to fads of the age, he was against both socialism and capitalism, materialism, determinism and “spineless agnosticism”. He fought for freedom and justice.

Chesterton never went to college but did attend art school. Extremely quotable and read now by too few people, he composed some near-perfect lines, concluding for example that “the Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried”.

International Nurses Day - Sunday, 12th May

In appreciation of our nurses

The work of nurses is celebrated around the world on 12th May. That day was chosen to be International Nurses Day because it is the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.

Here are some current stats on nurses in the UK:

There are currently 731,058 nurses on the permanent NMC register. With midwives and nursing associates added, this figure rises to be 788,638.

There are more female nurses than male nurses. 89% of registered nurses identify as female, and 11% identify as male. We need more nurses! Currently there are about 46,800 vacancies. Could this be a job for you?

The Parish Pump

The **Abbey Museum** is OPEN

**Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays
throughout the summer**

2:30 - 4:30pm

FREE ADMISSION



**Kenilworth History &
Archaeology Society**



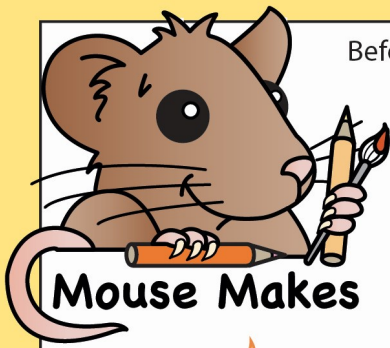
Kenilworth LIONS Grand Show 2024

Saturday, 8th June 2024

Abbey Fields, 12:30 - 21:30

Come and join the Kenilworth Lions for a fun-filled day out for all the family. Well supported with stalls, events, refreshments and entertainment. Free entry and car parking is available.





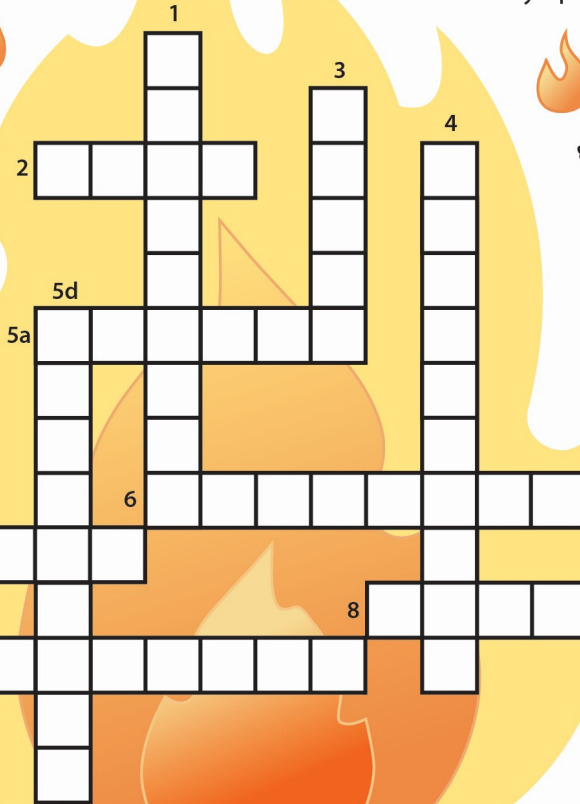
Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples
*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit
 has come upon you, and you will be my
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...*
 ...When the day of Pentecost arrived,
 they were all together in one place,
 and they were all filled
 with the Holy Spirit."



READ the story
 of Pentecost
 in Acts 1-2

Look up the Bible
 verses to find
 the answers to the
 crossword clues.

How many
 words can you
 make from
 the letters of:
 DAY OF
 PENTECOST



- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? *Acts 1:12*
- 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? *Acts 2:3*
- 3 Who spoke to the crowd? *Acts 2:14*
- 4 What were the disciples filled with? *Acts 2:4*
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? *Acts 1:14*
- 5d Which special day was it? *Acts 2:7*
- 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? *Acts 1:26*
- 7 Who had prophesied this? *Acts 2:16*
- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? *Acts 2:2*
- 9 What did they start speaking in? *Acts 2:4*

The GRAPEVINE

Contributing to The Grapevine

There are 11 monthly editions of the magazine with December and

January being a double edition.

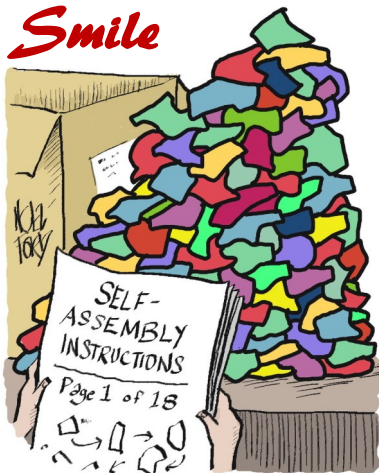
If you wish to contribute an article for **The Grapevine**, it would be most welcomed.

The deadline for all copy is currently the 25th of the preceding month when all items should be with the editor (Tony Shakespeare) at 7 Rosemary Mews, School Lane or email:

grapevine@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk



Smile



The PCC was already regretting ordering the stained glass window from IKEA.

Church Newsletter

Make sure that you receive the Church Newsletter, delivered by email, for church news, updates, details of services and things taking place within the parish.

We use mailchimp to send out our weekly newsletter. *(It may go into your spam or junk folder if you cant see it).*

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please *unsubscribe* via the link at the end of the newsletter

If you are not receiving the newsletter and would like to, please go to the website, www.stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk scroll down to bottom of the page, add your email address in the box and click subscribe.

Subscribe to our newsletter

Enter your email address below to receive our weekly newsletter. Your address will not be used for any other purpose.

Email Address *

Subscribe

**The Parish Church of St Nicholas,
Abbey Fields, Kenilworth, CV8 1BP
And St Barnabas' District Church,
Albion Street, Kenilworth, CV8 2FY**
Registered Charity Number 1126227

Postal and Parish office address:

St Nicholas' and St Barnabas'
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The Parochial Hall, 28, High Street,
Kenilworth, CV8 1LZ



Who's Who?

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vicar@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk

Parish Priest **Revd. Richard Moore** 07539 431186
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Reader Heather Alford 858308

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Pastoral Care Coordinator pastoralcstn@gmail.com

Churchwardens Tim Wilkes 857299
David Morgan tbc

Parochial Church Council Secretary
Mark Lovegrove 07532 490990
markdlovegrove@btinternet.com

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Organist & Choir Master James Hunt c/o parish office 857509

Flower Beds Janet Cherry 857931

Flower Guild Annie Ralphs annieralphs@virginmedia.com

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Who's Who? (continued)

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Diocesan website www.dioceseofcoventry.org

Facebook facebook.com/StNicholasStBarnabasKenilworth

Prayer and Fellowship

For detail of our various groups, contact the office who will be able to pass your details onto the group leader.

Parish Office

The Parish Office is located in the Parochial Hall, High Street.

The Office is open and you can contact Debby, the Parish administrator during the usual office hours

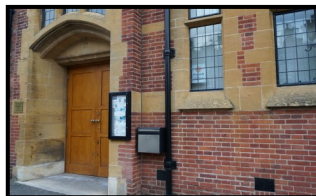
11am – 2pm on Tuesday, Wednesday &

Friday. Otherwise, if you have an urgent enquiry which needs responding to in a time sensitive manner please contact the churchwardens or Revd Richard Moore.

Email or telephone:

01926 857509 | office@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk

Our postal address is: **St Nicholas' and St Barnabas' Church,
The Parochial Hall, 28 High Street, Kenilworth, CV8 1LZ.**



Why not celebrate a special occasion, a birthday, wedding anniversary, etc. or in memory of a loved one by **sponsoring the flowers at St Barnabas' Church.**

Sponsor forms are on the notice board at St Barnabas' Church. or ring Rita on 07450069399, or speak to her in church.



A Summer Recital

St Nicholas Church, Abbey Fields, Kenilworth

Saturday

8TH June 4.00 pm



Maggie Bartmanis

- Mezzo Soprano

Accompanied by Adrian Moore

Songs by:

Abba – Kern - Porter

**Entry is free but there will be a retiring collection for the
Church**