



THE GRAPEVINE

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

September 2024

www.stnicholaskenilworth.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

September is full of new beginnings. Many children across our town will be starting school for the first time or moving into a new class. Perhaps they are transitioning to secondary school or starting college. Older children might be moving away from home for the first time to start university or new jobs. In the schools in our parish, teachers will be starting new jobs, or readjusting to life following their retirement over the summer. At St Nicholas' Church of England School, they are facing a new beginning as part of an Academy, with all the new opportunities that brings.

People without a connection with the rhythm of the school year may not have this sense of renewal and fresh starts in September. It is January, with its resolutions and promise of a whole new calendar year ahead that makes many of us think of new beginnings. In the Christian rhythm of the year, we often associate Easter with new life and new beginnings - especially as it falls in Spring as the earth starts to bring forth new shoots and hedgerows are budding with life. The liturgical year starts at the end of November, at the start of Advent, as we look forward to remembering and celebrating the birth of Christ. You can experience the rhythm of a year in different ways, but a new beginning can happen at any time.

Life brings us many new beginnings, some welcome: a new relationship; the birth of a child; a longed-for job. Others may be less welcome: the breakdown of a relationship; the onset of the restrictions of ill health; life alone after the death of a loved one. New beginnings can be exciting, or worrying; they may be an opportunity, or a challenge. They may be expected, or sudden; longed for, or dreaded. Jesus teaches us that God's promise to us all is that we are not alone in any of these new beginnings, that in joy or trouble God walks with us, upholds us and celebrates with us.

A relationship with Jesus offers us a fresh start, a new perspective on the world as we engage in a journey of discovery about God, ourselves, and the world around us. Brother Roger, of Taizé, encourages others to welcome each new day like the beginning of a new life. A new life of prayerful connection with the Divine. A new beginning often comes after a period of asking questions and making a new discovery. Whether we have been Christians for a long time, or we are exploring the edges of spirituality and faith for the first time, there are questions about faith that can loom large. If you feel like this, you might like to join us this autumn as a group of us explore a range of questions about faith and life. Look out for more information in this magazine and in the weekly newsletter.

No matter how we do our exploring we will always come to a new beginning. T.S. Eliot (in 'Little Gidding' from the Four Quartets) suggests that "the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time".

Happy New Beginnings!

Every Blessing



Rev Eira



Wednesday Study Group

All are welcome to join the Study Group on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. It is held in St Nicholas' Church from 2.30pm until 4.00pm. The dates for September will be 11th and 25th.

We will be starting a new series of studies on the book of Job. More details and study books will be available beforehand from me; Heather Alford 01926 858308. Please join us!

Please contact me if you would like to know more.



Heather Alford 01926 858308

We are STILL looking for Altar Servers

Have you ever thought of becoming an Altar Server?

Want to take a more active role in the service?

We currently have vacancies for altar servers.

If you think you may be interested, please introduce yourself to one of us after a service and we will be happy to chat with you about the role or leave some contact details with the parish office and Jane will get back to you.

Become part of our small, friendly team.



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.

Editor



Children & Families

Stay and Play

The team who have been helping Clare with Stay and Play on a Thursday morning are asking if you could come along to help sometimes?

We hope that we will be able to keep this time, which is so important to many of our families with little children, continuing while we await a replacement for Clare.

We could, however do with extra help. This does not have to be strenuous! Chatting with the Mums and Grandparents is an important part of what we offer. The children like to be free to play but the grownups like to talk!

Come and see what we do.

We meet in the Parochial Hall on a Thursday morning from 10.00 to 11.30. Pop in and see if it's for you or give me a ring on 01926 858308 Heather Alford.

We look forward to you joining us!



Heather Alford

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 26-27)



This month's cover:

Sunflowers at the Allotment's Open Day. See page 21 for more pictures

St Barnabas' Church News



TEA 4 ALL

Do you enjoy a cuppa with cake?

Would you like some company in friendly surroundings?

If you have answered yes to either or both of those questions, do join us at **St Barnabas' Church** on **Saturday 7th September from 2pm**. "TEA 4 All" is exactly as described, it is an invitation to everyone to pop in for a cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate and delicious cake. There is no charge, any voluntary donations will be given to church funds.

The church will be open from 1pm for those who would like to have lunch before "TEA 4 ALL". There are snacks available, or people are welcome to bring a picnic lunch with them.

If you are unable to join us on 7th September, don't worry as we repeat it all again on Saturdays 5th October, 2nd November and 7th December.

Please note there is no "TEA 4 ALL" in January.



Warm Hub at St Barnabas'

Please pass the word around that the **St Barnabas' Warm Hub** is open all year round and all are welcome to come along. It begins after the service of 'Leavenses on **Tuesdays at 11.45** and goes on until about 1.30pm.

Drinks and hot and cold food are available. This is a free event and open to all, regardless of age or circumstances.

— Lesley O'Connor —



St Nicholas' Mothers' Union meet again after the Summer break on **Wednesday 18th**

September in the Parochial Hall at 2.00 pm.

We will be sharing our favourite recipes and Cookery books. If anyone would like to bring along their contributions to taste, I am sure it would be very popular!

We also have coffee in Church after Holy Communion on **Wednesday 4th September**.

Please ring **Margaret Rogers 856353** or **Mary Leeson 855199** for further details.

Margaret Rogers

St. Nicholas' Ladies Group

Dear All

I trust Everyone has had a good holiday.

Ladies Group celebrate their 50th Anniversary this year. We start off with **Afternoon Tea at Harringtons on 3rd September at 1.00pm.**

Our first speaker will be on **1st October**. Ian King from Warwickshire Crime Prevention Team will talk about his "**Thirty Years of Policing**".

Please note summer itinerary meetings now commence at 7.00pm not 7.30p. Winter meetings will commence at 2.00pm.

We aim to have a **Christmas Social** on December 3rd and will cut a 50th Celebration Cake at that time.

Subs for this year have gone up to £18.00 to cover costs, etc. Visitors are welcome, £3.00 a visit.

Coffee Wives at the Almanack

Please note that coffee at the Almanack in September will be on the **fourth Monday, on the 23rd at 10:30am to 12:00 noon** as the Almanack is closed for an internal event.

Coffee Wives normally takes place at the Almanack on every third Monday of month at 10:30am to 12:00 noon.

We will return to every third Monday in **October** on **Monday, 21st**.

Gill Peppitt, Secretary 01926 512209



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.



The Flower Guild

Hello everyone,

Well don't the months go by fast! Here we find ourselves almost into Autumn and another AGM for the Flower Guild. I have been the chair of the Guild for three years now and should be standing down. So, this is a big shoutout to everyone - if you would like to be chair or support me in covering another year get in touch. **Our AGM is at St Barnabas' Church on Monday 23rd of September at 10.00am and everyone is welcome!**

Looking at what the Flower Guild has achieved over the past three years has been heartening. We worked on through Covid, celebrated a platinum jubilee and commemorated a life of service from our late Queen. That has not been all as we celebrated a Coronation and on a more personal occasion twenty years of Workshops.

Of course, we could not have done all this without the support and love of the church members.

Sponsored arrangements really help us to continue and it is wonderful to celebrate an event in our own lives or a life of a loved one.

Looking forward we will soon be decorating the church for Harvest. We welcome visitors to see us make our arrangements. **We are decorating the church on 12th October and will be in church from 9.00 - 12.00.** I hope to see you then.

Kind regards

Annie

Workshop on Saturday 21st September, St Nicholas' Church

A bunch of Sunflowers

Hello everyone

I hope that you have all been enjoying the summer. Although it was slow to get going the gardens have made up for it. Ours has been a blaze of colour and has given us so much pleasure. I am not looking forward to thinking of Autumn, although it is my favourite time of year with all the beautiful colours and hopefully we will have an Indian Summer. Our Autumn Workshop will

soon be with us, so I have been forced to think about it and what to demonstrate for you, and for you to make afterwards, if you wish.

One of my favourite flowers is the sunflower. I love everything about them, so have decided to show you what to do with a bunch of sunflowers. The recipe is below.

The workshop will be on Saturday 21st September in St Nicholas' at 10.30am as usual. It will be open to everyone, so please tell your friends and family and join us for a happy morning. The entrance is £3.00, which include coffee / tea and biscuits.

Our Harvest Festival is the weekend of the 12/13th October. This year Jean, Maggie and myself are the organisers and we have decided that we want a traditional harvest using seasonal flowers, all the lovely seed head and berries you find in the edge rows and also any garden produce, so please, if you are growing pumpkins, gourds, marrows, apples, pears, Chinese lanterns, Michaelmas Daisies or Dahlias, and have any to spare, please think of us and bring them along to church for us to use they will be much appreciated.

Many thanks **Barbara**

Recipe for a bunch of Sunflowers

I will demonstrate more than one design so you can decide which you want to make. Therefore, bring two different shape containers with you.

- A tall glass vase
- A shallow container round square oblong your choice
- If you need foam, you can purchase this on the day.
- A bunch of Sunflowers at least 6 in the bunch. You may want to buy more.
- 3 medium Fatsia
- A few medium sized leaves ivy. Fatshedera 3/5 Phormium leaves
- A little filler foliage try - and think sculptural not fussy.

If you have any queries please ring me, Barbara on 0126 777367





Heritage Open Days - 6th -15th September

St Nicholas' and St Barnabas' churches will be open daily 9.00am - 5.00pm throughout Heritage Open Days. Come in and explore our churches' heritage.

St Nicholas' Church Teas **Sunday, 8th September, 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. Every second Sunday of the month, throughout the summer. All income goes to Parish Funds.

Volunteers always welcomed: Please contact Janet on 01926 857931



You can also visit the bell tower - open until 300pm



Lego Club @ St. Barney's

is back for the Autumn term!

We're back on Tuesday 10th September!

Where? *St. Barnabas' Church, Albion Street, Kenilworth CV8 2FY*

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*

A Back to School Prayer: Loving God, let me be strong today as I meet new people in new places. Make me brave when I am worried, show me how to learn from everyone around me, and help me to do my best.

AMEN

Update on St Nicholas' Church Herb Garden

This herb garden, which was designed, dug and planted as part of St Nicholas' Eco Church activities about six years ago, is for anyone and everyone's use and pleasure. It's a place of quietness and meditation. Anyone can sit on the bench, look out over the church gardens and ancient building and appreciate nature and its diverse forms of life. People from the local community are encouraged to pick and use the herbs (and they do).

The herb garden is maintained by a group of volunteers – we welcome regulars and newcomers – when it needs attention. If you'd like to join us, please speak to Eira, our Vicar, or to Victoria Lee. No previous gardening experience is necessary.

On Monday Bank Holiday at the end of August, as summer is fading and autumn is coming on, four of us spent time together and with the plants, mowing the paths between the herb beds and cutting back old, over-enthusiastic herbs spilling over the edges of the planting areas. Several people passing by on the path running down to the church stopped for conversation and to thank us for maintaining the herb garden for everyone. It's a special way to feel close to nature and part of a local community.

If you haven't yet discovered the herb garden, walk up from St Nicholas' Church's main door towards the High Street through the avenue of tall fir trees. The herb garden is on your right as you near the High Street. It's there for you and for others. Try picking and eating one of the bright red little appletinis – they are deliciously sweet.



The Abbey Museum is OPEN

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

**2:30 - 4:30pm
FREE ADMISSION**



Garden Gang **The St Nicholas Holiday Club**

We all had a wonderful time at the St Nicholas' Holiday Club! We learnt about God's love for us all when he created this beautiful world for us to live in. We learnt how we, humans, messed up and did things that God did not want us to do. Even so, God never stopped loving us and he sent lots of different people called prophets to try to get us to behave better. Sadly, we didn't listen. God even sent his Son, Jesus who came to show just how much He loves us too. Jesus gave up his life so that we could be saved from our sins. We also learnt that Jesus came alive again and is alive now; ready and waiting to be our friend.

We played games and did lots of crafty things to help us to remember what we had been learning about. The photos show you the things we made; a sun catcher, a bug hotel and a bird feeder for the garden, a wind spiral from a plastic bottle.

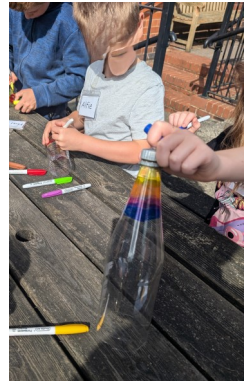
We spent time thinking about how we can talk to God as our friend; We thought about what we specially wanted to say thank you to God for in



His creation; we learnt how he wants us to say sorry when we have done things that we know are not good and how we can forgive people who have made us unhappy too.



The morning ended each day with one of the leaders getting “gunged” of course. For most of the children that is the highlight! It was sad to say goodbye to Clare at the end of the week. We were so grateful for all the effort she had put into writing and organising a great holiday club again.



Heather Alford

*This
Month
in
History*

400 years ago, on 10th Sept 1624 Thomas Sydenham, English physician, was born. He became known as the ‘father of English medicine’. His textbook on medicine became the standard medical textbook in England for the next 200 years.

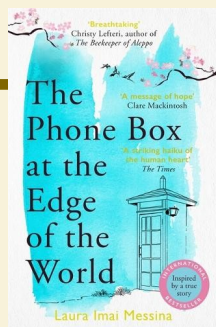


The Phone Box at the Edge of the World

Author: Laura Imai Messina

Publisher: Manilla Press

Translated from the Italian by Lucy Rand



This novel was inspired by a real place in North East Japan. As the book says, “On a windy hill, in a garden overlooking the sea stands a disused phone box. For years people have travelled to visit the phone box, to pick up the receiver and to speak into the wind, to pass their messages to loved ones no longer alive”.

After the tsunami of 2011 even more people visited the phone box, and this story relates the experiences of some such people who were moved by their bereavement and unhappiness to seek out this extraordinary garden.

Yui heard of the existence of this garden for the first time at the end of her radio programme. A woman rang in and talked about it so movingly, that she caught the attention of Yui and all those working in the studio.

Completely bereft by the loss of her mother and daughter in the tsunami, Yui did not know how she was going to carry on with her life. But hearing of the phone box, she decided to make her own pilgrimage there, to speak to the people she loved the most.

On the way to the garden Yui one day met Takeshi, a young man, who was also bereaved, having lost his beloved young wife through cancer. He had been left with a very young daughter, Hana, who from the day of her mother's death, had stopped talking. Takeshi wondered whether she would ever talk again. In his distress he decided to make his own visit to the Phone Box.

Over the months Yui and Takeshi gradually got to know each other and found out more about the sad circumstances that had brought them together. This book is, as the Daily Mail wrote, “A poignant, atmospheric novel”. The translation is excellent, and makes the book an easy read, though in places, extremely moving and heart-breaking. Its message is one of hope and resilience - and very much worth reading!

Bookworm

Sadly, this will be the last of Bookworm's Good Reads. After over ten years of contributing regularly, Bookworm has decided to retire. Our thanks for all his interesting contributions. If anyone who enjoys a good read would like to take up Bookworm's mantle, you would be most welcome. Email me

at grapevine@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk

Let us never take for granted the food on our tables by the Revd Richard Moore

August was an exciting month for my wife and I, and all our family with the safe arrival of our first grandchild, a beautiful little girl – Hetty. Thanks you to all who have already heard the good news and sent cards and good wishes.

September hails the start of autumn, the days are already noticeably shorter, for many the holiday season draws to a close and a new academic year begins. In an age where the supermarkets never seem to have seasonal food, almost everything we eat is available all year round we tend to forget that it is not that long ago that you would mark the year by the availability of strawberries or pears on sale at the greengrocers.



Every year it is at this time in our small orchard I take notice of the bounty of God's creation with our plum trees producing a small crop of the Golden Egg variety and a bumper crop of Marjorie Seedlings, so much so that I am surprised the branches can bear the weight; and for once the Bramley apples haven't done too badly - the first time we will have anything worth counting. The fields of wheat and barley around our cottage have been harvested with now just the maize waiting for combine harvester.

Let us never take for granted the food on our tables, but continually and always giving thanks to God who gives us our daily bread and so much more.

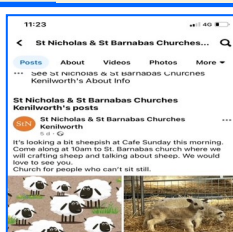
Reverend Richard Moore

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Find us [here](#) or at:

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



Awesome Wonder

'Awe' could be defined as; 'A feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder' and 'awesome' as; 'extremely impressive or daunting, inspiring awe.' In a talk on Radio 4 recently the writer, author and journalist, Will Self, who is of Jewish heritage but without a working faith, talked about his practice weekly of joining a place of worship, of different Christian denominations, as well as of other faiths. He said he was searching for the awe in worship which would transport him to belief. (As far as I know, he hasn't found it yet!)

Doctor Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, recently wrote that; 'Theologically rich songs seem to have fallen out of common memory as hymns have become less prominent in schools and society. Most of the popular hymns chosen for weddings and funerals are like 'baby food' in terms of their lyrical content.' He lamented that bland song choices used to mark special occasions are picked because they are what people remember from school.

Isn't that the point? Wedding couples often say that they are choosing hymns they sang at school because these are ones that many of their friends are likely to know, especially those who don't often go to church. There is always room for the majestic, dignified hymn, the ancient anthem but surely there is also a welcome, whether we are taking 'one more step along the way' or appreciating the 'colours of day' or celebrating 'all things bright and beautiful', for the simpler songs

which are part of our praise of our awesome God.

When I was a teenager in the sixties, I remember hearing at the church I attended, that a new hymn had been 'doing the rounds' during the nineteen fifties. It was the mighty How Great Thou Art. I found it hard to understand that this wasn't a centuries-old piece. There is a timelessness to it, an eternal transcendence of age and era. This year is the 75th anniversary of the publication of this ever-popular hymn with its powerful words. (I wonder what Lord Williams thinks of it!)

It could be described as the almost perfect hymn. It is certainly a great hymn to sing to worship the Lord of all creation. The words reflect verse 10 of Psalm 86 in the King James version; 'For Thou art great and doest wondrous things, Thou art God alone.' The message is of God's love and the power in creation runs through it.

The impact of the hymn is almost overwhelming. It has been translated into more than fifty languages and has been recorded 1700 times, including by Elvis Presley. In 2005 it was declared the number one favourite hymn on Songs of Praise. I know that it is a great favourite with many people.

The author of this modern version was Stuart W K Hine, who had been a Youth Leader at Loughborough Hall Brethren Church in Camberwell, south London, an ancient parish now in the Borough of Southwark since

Continued on page 17 



1900. Stuart was called up and served in France from 1917 – 1919. On returning to London, he found employment with the Mitsubishi corporation. He married in June 1923 and he and his wife, Mercy, immediately set off to become English missionaries in Russia and Western Ukraine. While working there he set off on a 300-mile expedition by motorcycle to the Carpathian Mountains. He heard the Russian translation from German of the Swedish hymn, O Store Gud, sung to a Swedish folk tune. I doubt he realised just how momentous this find was to become!

He translated 'O Store Gud' into English as 'How Great Thou Art', modifying it and adding the third verse which reflected his joy of the experience of coming to faith, sins forgiven. He was later inspired to write the last verse as he worked with refugees who would never see their families again but could be held in the assurance of God. How Great Thou Art was published in 1949 and became popular because of the Billy Graham Crusades, sung superbly by George Beverly Shea.

Stuart and Mercy had had to escape from Ukraine in 1932 and they then worked in Poland. They eventually returned to Britain at the outbreak of war in 1939. Stuart settled in Somerset, working with displaced persons and Polish refugees. After retirement he continued to write many hymns and publish gospel song books. The royalties from the hymn all go into the Stuart Hine Trust. He

contributed much of his income to various missionary groups, including the Wycliffe translators. 583 million people in 70 plus countries are able to read the Bible in their own language, thanks to the Wycliffe Translators. This work is continued by the Trust, as well as humanitarian aid, especially in Ukraine currently.

Sadly, I can find no further references to Mercy Hine, though it would appear that she had died before Stuart retired. I found two photographs of Stuart and Mercy with a little girl, but again I can find no further references to the child either.

The words speak of wonder and hope, reassurance and thanks. The opening words; 'O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder', elevate to the forefront that, first and foremost we acknowledge that God is indeed great. The second line asks us to bring to mind God's awesome creation; 'Consider all the works Thy hands have made'. The music brings the words to life as it builds into the chorus and finishes with a sense of release, of joy and emotion. Quite an achievement in four short verses and a chorus! Somehow you just know that his hymn will be moving generations to come, challenging them to be faithful in all of life's work and challenges, lost in wonder, love and praise. May that be our song!

The hymn is subject to copyright but can be found, hymn 546 in the church hymn books or online:

<https://www.godtube.com/popular-hymns/how-great-thou-art/>



The Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society will be hosting
**FREE guided walks of Kenilworth's St Mary's Priory/
Abbey ruins on Saturday, 14th and Sunday, 15th
September at 3:00pm** in support of **Heritage Open Days**.

Take a walk back in time to when St Mary's Priory, and later Abbey,
was one of the most prestigious Augustinian houses in the
Midlands. Hear about the men who lived here and what happened
to them and their beautiful buildings.



Do come and join us.
We will meet at the
***Abbey Museum and
Heritage Centre*** (just
beyond the children's
play area) on Abbey
Fields, Kenilworth for a 3:00pm start.



Numbers will be limited, so
please register at the
Museum from 2:30pm to
secure a place.



The Abbey Museum and Heritage Centre will also be
open on Saturday 7th
and Sunday 8th September as part of Heritage
Open Days.

Pick up your free guide or go online to explore your
local Heritage 6th-15th September



24th September – St Gerard Sagredo

Church planting in the 11th century

It's amazing how little some things change down the centuries. Take the life of Gerard Sagredo, for instance. He left his 'comfort zone' of home and church because he felt God's calling on his life. He travelled abroad and taught in order to earn his living in a non-Christian country. In his spare time he shared his faith with the people he met, and gradually some were converted. Soon he had 'planted' a little church.

Gerard's life sounds like that of a western missionary in parts of the developing world today. In fact, he was an 11th century monk from Venice. He was the prior of San Giorgio Maggiore, but gave up the security in order to attempt the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. But God stopped Gerard when he reached Hungary, for King Stephen not only welcomed him, but pressed him to become tutor to his son.



Gerard agreed, and soon he had converted a group of people around him. In those days monks didn't just plant churches – they planted entire 'sees' of the church, and so the see of Csanad was established, with Gerard as its first bishop.

But the problems of then and now seem surprisingly similar. Gerard Sagredo worked in the face of growing hostility from local people of other faiths, and half-hearted commitment from some of his own converts. Nearly 1,000 years later, Christian missionaries all over the world are still facing the same two struggles.

Sadly, the next bit of the story is also all too familiar: King Stephen died, and the new people in power hated Christians. In 1038 persecution began. In 1046 Gerard was attacked in the street, and stoned. A lance was thrust through him. His body was then hurled into the Danube. Gerard Sagredo had become a martyr of the Persecuted Church.

The non-Christians killed Gerard that day, but they did not kill Christianity. In the years to come many more thousands of Christians would die, while the church grew, not shrank. Meanwhile, Venice paid homage to her first ever martyr by translating some of his relics back to the island of Murano in 1333.

God in the Sciences

Faithful to Scripture, Faithful to Science: Alister McGrath on science and Christian faith

Alister McGrath is well-known as a theologian, but he started out as a scientist. After becoming a Christian as a student, he wanted to learn about his new faith, so he studied theology at the same time as completing his PhD in molecular biophysics. He has not lost touch with science, but has continued to write and speak about how science and Christian faith work together. In this extract from a recently released interview, he shares his experience of being a scientist and a Christian.

“I think my most vivid experience of wonder took place in the 1970s when I was on vacation in Iran. We were travelling on a bus in the middle of the night because it wasn't hot then, and the bus broke down. We found ourselves in the middle of this solemn black desert, and the night sky shone with a brilliance like I had never seen before. That just overwhelmed me, it made me think there is something really wonderful here.

“Now, I was a Christian by that time and I knew how Christianity could answer that but it just struck me, that sense of wonder has two possible outcomes. One is science – this universe is wonderful, what's it all about? But of course, it is also about religion, the deeper levels of things that science can't really engage. I think one of the things I have discovered over time is that maybe this sense of wonder both opens the gateway to science and to faith, and that those two together are able to answer questions which on their own they simply couldn't.

“I think science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer – they transcend its capacities to answer, and you might think of non-empirical questions like, ‘Why am I here? What is the meaning of life? What is good and how do I live a good life?’

“These are real questions and they're good questions but they're not scientific questions. And the psychologists tell us that we really need answers to those questions if we are to lead a fulfilled human existence. You find some scientists who say, ‘Well because science can't answer them there are no answers to be given’, but actually most realise that there are answers waiting to be discovered – it's just that science can't deliver them.

“Science fills in part of a big picture but there are parts of the picture you have to fill in from somewhere else. Science is part of the answer but only part, and faith supplements it, giving us a vision of life that is exciting and reliable, and also something that we can inhabit meaningfully.”

Find more on wondersofthelivingworld.org

The Kenilworth Allotments Open Day

Sunday, 11th August

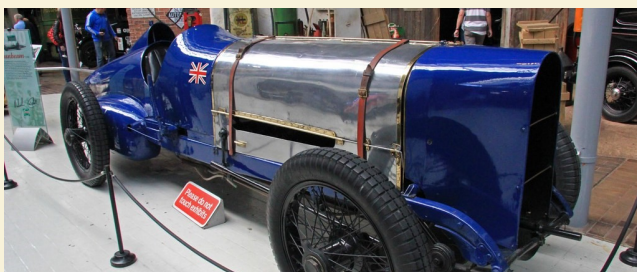


A lovely sunny day with plenty of ice-cream, tea and cakes, samosas and Pimm's - plus summer hats, lovingly cared for plots, beautiful flowers and inventive scarecrows.



This Month in History, 1924

One hundred years ago, on 25th September 1924, British racing driver **Malcolm Campbell** broke the land speed record for the first time. He recorded a speed of 146mph in a **1921 Sunbeam Grand Prix** car at Pendine Sands, Carmarthen Bay, Wales.



On why you should never replace your hymn books

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

I am surprised you are considering buying a new set of hymn books for your church. I had assumed everything you sang would be projected on to one of those screens which are invariably placed to obscure the altar.

In my – fortunately limited – experience of such devices, they provide the projectionist with endless opportunities for showing the wrong hymn, or the right hymn but from another edition, which will contain either one verse too many or one too few. Should the hymn run to two pages, then the turnover always takes place some milliseconds after that verse has started, so that the congregation is faced with the snap decision of either trying to sing two lines at double time, or just to join in late, making a nonsense of the words.

When we decided to change hymn books some years ago, the reverberations made the consequences of that little event in Sarajevo seem insignificant. The proposal was to move from Hymns Ancient and More Ancient to the more recent version: Hymns Ancient and Slightly Less Ancient.

Colonel Wainwright said he would be happy so long as we continued fighting good fights and urging Christian soldiers onwards. The men wanted the hymns they remembered from school, the ladies those they sang at their weddings, and no one would consider anything that dropped 'thines' or 'wouldsts'. The basses in the choir wanted hymns they knew the tenors found difficult and those who couldn't read music wanted more hymns sung in unison. When a rumour started that the books may contain hymns written in the last 50 years, timetables were consulted for bus services to the next village.

Eventually we reached a perfect compromise: doing something which made no change whatsoever. Miss Simpson was charged with buying yards of sticky backed plastic and repairing the current books. She put a note on the front of every copy that if the page for the hymn they wanted was missing, they should share with the person sitting next to them – an experience which will be almost as traumatic as being invited to pass the peace. Yet another decision has thereby been deferred for a Church Council to make some time next century. Harmony reigns once again.

Your loving uncle,

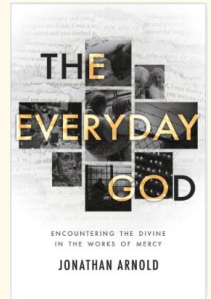
Eustace

The Everyday God

By Jonathan Arnold, BRF, £9.99

Jonathan Arnold, a seasoned community engagement expert, delves deep into the heart of the biblical mandate to love one's neighbour. Through a tapestry of real-life stories, he unveils the power of practical faith, illustrating how it can ignite transformation among the homeless, refugees, the poor and vulnerable, imprisoned and marginalised, as well as those living with dementia, disability and disease.

In these pages, you'll witness how acts of social and environmental justice, intertwined with mercy, have the potential to reshape lives, offering a vivid portrait of the profound impact of embracing the everyday God. As he reflects upon Jesus's teaching in Matthew 25:34–40, Arnold challenges us to discover God's presence in the most unexpected places and join in with where He is acting, whether inside or outside our churches.



Enduring Wisdom – Words of Hope and Inspiration by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

By Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, SPCK, £10.99

A unique anthology of over 80 inspiring quotations from the late Queen's Christmas speeches, offering an intimate insight into the values she embodied and faithfully promoted throughout her 70-year reign.

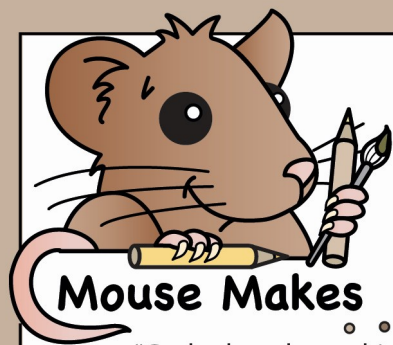
This treasury of quotations speak of the qualities that were closest to her heart: courage, empathy, forgiveness, hope, humility, love and respect. These are the qualities that she encouraged in others and that she hoped would endure among all people of goodwill, whatever their religion or race.

Including seven memorable portraits – one from each decade of her reign – this exquisite giftbook offers an inspiring tribute to a world leader whose wise and gracious influence will live in our hearts forever.

Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022) was Queen of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth countries from 6 February 1952 until her death on 8 September 2022. Her reign of over 70 years is the longest of any British monarch and the longest verified reign of any female head of state in history.

Elizabeth II was queen regnant of 32 sovereign states during her lifetime and remained the monarch of 15 realms by the time of her death. She was also Patron of more than 600 organisations and charities.





Mouse Makes

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

"May the peoples
_____ you, O God!
May all the peoples praise you!
The land yields its harvest;
God, our God blesses us."

Psalms 67:5-6 NIV

"God ... has shown kindness by
giving you rain from heaven
and crops in their seasons.
He provides you with
plenty of _____. He fills
your hearts with joy."

Acts 14:16-17 NIV

"Honour the Lord with your wealth
and the first part of your harvest."

Proverbs 3:9 ERV

"Let us fear and respect
the Lord our God.
He gives us autumn and
spring _____
at the right time.
He makes sure that we
have the harvest at
just the right time."

Jeremiah 5:24 ERV

O A G A T H E R A I N S
S V O G M A U T U M N P
O G D O P R O D U C E R
I H J O Y V S H A R E I
L A N D H E P R A Y D N
T H A N K S G I V I N G
Y P F E R T I L E E P S
B L E S S E D D E L R W
S E A S O N F O O D A A
U N R E W K I F R U I T
N T T E N S C R O P S E
N Y H D P R O V I D E R

HARVEST • THANKSGIVING • LAND • EARTH • FERTILE • SOIL • SEED • SOWN
NEED • WATER • SUN • SEASON • AUTUMN • SPRING • YIELD • PRODUCE
FRUIT • GATHER • CROPS • PLenty • PRAY • GOD • PROVIDE • JOY
BLESSED • GOODNESS • SHARE

Find the words from the questions too!

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL



I take it that our local supermarket has a very good offer on tinned peas at the moment.

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 *

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**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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Parish Priest **Revd. Richard Moore** 07539 431186
richard@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk

Reader Heather Alford 858308

Pastoral Assistant c/o parish office 857509
Pastoral Care Coordinator pastoralcstn@gmail.com

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Frank Holt tbp

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markdlovegrove@btinternet.com

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Flower Beds Janet Cherry 857931

Flower Guild Annie Ralphs annieralphs@virginmedia.com

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Children and Families Worker Clare Edwards 07862 303317
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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

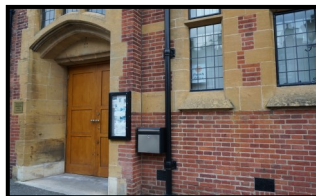
11am – 2pm on Tuesday, Wednesday &

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:

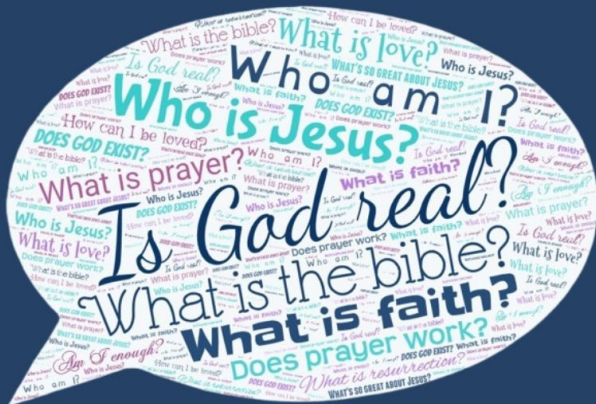
01926 857509 | office@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk

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.



Got questions about life and faith?

Join us this autumn as we explore them together

Thursday evenings 7.30 - 9pm

St Barnabas Church, Albion Street

October 3rd	Is God real?
October 10th	How does God speak today?
October 17th	Who is Jesus?
October 24th	What is the Holy Spirit?
November 7th	How does the Bible help us?
November 14th	What is faith?
November 21st	More Questions?



explore.discover.connect.reflect