

St. Giles Church Exhall Parish Magazine

St. Giles' Drama Club is Proud to Present:

The King's New Clothes



19th—22nd February
2025, at 7:30pm

Matinee 22nd February, 2:30 pm

St Giles' Church Hall,
CV7 9GZ

A Pantomime by Peter Bond
& Bob Heather
By kind permission of Lazy Bee Scripts

Tickets £8 (Concessions £6) From 024 7664 5278 or 07905 297713

024 7632 5870 or 07952 345412

February 2025—50p

St Giles' Parish Church, Exhall - www.stgileschurchexhall.info

The Parish Office at St Giles' Church Hall, St Giles' Road, Ash Green, CV7 9GZ

Telephone/answerphone: 024 7636 8008

Office email: office@stgileschurchexhall.info

The Parish Office is open Tuesday to Thursday, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm.

Sunday Worship

**Please see the worship pattern
for February on page 7**

Other Useful Information

Ministry to the sick and housebound

We are always pleased to visit, at home or in hospital. But we need to know who would welcome a visit. Contact the office on (024) 76 368008.

Christenings and Weddings

Enquiries should be made to the office (024) 76 368008.

Bereavement and funerals

We will always take funerals for anyone in the parish, either at church or at the crematorium. Burials are performed in St Giles' Meadow. Enquiries should be made to the office (024) 76 368008.

The Bereavement Drop-In is open on alternate Thursdays in the Small Hall. Please contact Sue Barnes on 07946 051122.

Foodbank

Help is now available through the Bedworth Community Grocery,
The Harbour Centre,
12 Congreve Walk, Bedworth CV12 8LY
Tel: 02477 331511 Bedworth@community.grocery.org.uk

New members of any age are always welcome at the following:

Bell ringing

Thursdays 7.30-9pm (except 3rd Thursday)

Choir

Fridays at 7pm.

Worship Band

Wednesdays at 7.30pm.

Front Cover : St Giles Panto poster

Back Cover: Photos from the Christmas Bazaar 2024

Any news, reflections, stories, pictures, jokes or brainteasers to share within these pages? I'd love to have them! Please email them to **tinawatk1ns@btinternet.com** or drop them into the parish office or "W" pigeonhole in church.

The next magazine will cover March and the copy deadline date is **Sunday 16th February**.

Welcome to your February magazine ...

... and I hope you had a lovely Christmas and New Year. It's at this time of year when we look hopefully for signs that spring is on its way and one of the first indications is that the nights do seem to be drawing out and we get a little more daylight every day. Snowdrops are starting to appear and I've even heard a report of daffodils blooming in the local area!



February is, of course, our pantomime month at St Giles and I hope you will be able to support the production "The King's New Clothes" this year. All the cast—and those behind the scenes—have been working hard since September to bring you a real family pantomime with lots of audience participation, fun and laughter. For your convenience, a ticket order form is included in this magazine on page 8.

Tina Watkins

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St Giles' Magazine was first published in April 1898 and is now in its 126th year.

With love from the Vicar

My Mum often says of her student days, 'My work was always in on time, but the ink was never dry!'. I'm a bit like that with deadlines including, I have to confess, the deadline for our parish magazine!

So, I'm writing this after our Sunday services today which focussed on Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana. In our All Age worship we had a 'Pop-Up Wedding' with party hats and special outfits for the characters involved – Mary, Jesus and the Master of Ceremonies. I always find this account of Jesus' first miracle a real encouragement in the Epiphany season, especially at the start of a new year. Mary puts the problem succinctly, 'They have no more wine'. The wedding is on the brink of potential disaster and huge embarrassment for the hosts. We may be going into this year with a sense of lack or loss, or a sense of feeling depleted or drained. Like Mary, we can turn to Jesus who is able to take the resources, the 'water' we have when offered to him and do some surprising things! In the case of the wedding at Cana, over 90 litres of water, or 240 pints, were transformed into vintage wine! As the Master of Ceremonies puts it 'you have saved the best till now'.

One of the ways we're seeing God transform water into wine at St Giles is in the area of Youth Work. For a long time we've wanted to relaunch outreach to young people, particularly to connect with 11 – 18 year olds and Ash Green school. This was one of our goals in our Focus Area of Mission and Outreach this year. On our own, we didn't have the finance or the people to run and sustain this work. The fantastic news is that, through a generous partnership with our Mission Hub Church at All Saints Bedworth, we now have a new youth worker Kat Beedie who, alongside others from the Bedworth Youth Team, is getting some great youth work off the ground. This includes a 'Youth Impact' club on Thursdays from 4 – 6 pm in the Main Hall, as well as weekly visits to Ash Green School to come alongside students who need extra support. This opens up all sorts of exciting possibilities and will also extend what we can offer to the children and youth who already regularly attend at St Giles. Our connections with children and families are growing all the time, with a particular boost since we've moved into the new year!



So . . . watch this space and look out for other areas where water is turning to wine!

Of course, no February would be complete without our annual Panto! I'm really looking forward to 'The King's New Clothes' and another amazing show. Do come along and huge thanks to Tina, the whole cast and support team who make this possible year by year – it is an absolute Exhall legend!

With love,
Gail

Can you help us find names?



Each year, when the names from the War Memorial are read at the Remembrance Service, I wonder if it would be possible to discover the first names of the men and have those read out instead of just the initials.

I will be able to find out some of the names from the Commonwealth War

Graves Commission website, especially if the surname is a less common one, but I suspect that there are people in Ash Green and Exhall who know the names of one or more of the men because of a family connection.

If you do have any information, or you know someone who might have information, please could you let me know – my phone number is 07969 169846 or leave a note in the C pigeon-hole in church.



Gwyneth Carter

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Review from G.K. Gaur (daughter of Resident: carthorse2004)

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SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday 2nd February	<u>10.00 am</u> Communion	<u>11.45 am</u> Sunday Celebration	<u>5.00 pm</u> Evensong
Wednesday 5th February	<u>10.30 am</u> Communion		
Sunday 9th February	<u>8.00 am</u> Communion	<u>10.00 am</u> Communion	<u>11.45 am</u> Sunday Celebration
Sunday 16th February	<u>10.00 am</u> Communion	<u>11.45 am</u> Sunday Celebration	<u>5.00 pm</u> Communion
Sunday 23rd February	<u>8.00 am</u> Communion	<u>10.30 am</u> Joint Service of Holy Communion	

Exhall Over 50s Club

We're a place to meet together, make friends and generally have a good time...

We run a monthly buffet, a monthly pub lunch, occasional coach and theatre trips, and weekly table games, discussions, music and sing-alongs, bingo, a raffle, talks, demos, films and of course refreshments...

We are a warm, friendly group always happy to welcome new members!



**Every Tuesday in St Giles Main
Hall, 1-3pm.**

Membership £12/year, sessions £3.00

Further info: Patricia Munro 024 7664 4507

THE KING'S NEW CLOTHES
19TH – 22ND FEBRUARY 2025
ST GILES' CHURCH HALL, EXHALL, CV7 9GZ
TICKETS - £8 ADULTS/£6 CHILDREN/STUDENTS/OAP
(As a guide, suitable for children aged 5 and older)

Date	Quantity at £8	Quantity at £6	Total Cost
WEDS 19.2.25 7.30 p.m.			
THURS 20.2.25 7.30 p.m.			
FRI 21.2.25 7.30 p.m.			
SAT 22.2.25 2.30 p.m.			
SAT 22.2.25 7.30 p.m.			
<u>NB CASH ONLY</u>	TOTAL COST		

Name Telephone

Address

Please return form to a member of the cast or post to:
T Watkins, 17 Nolan Close, Coventry CV6 6QB
Tel: 02476325870, 02476645278, 07905297713 or 07952345412

HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING



Please join us on
15th March
in the Small Hall



10.00 am - 12.00 noon

All proceeds to Mary Ann Evans Hospice



Tea, Coffee,
Cakes, Raffle
and Sales Table



A wonderful result!

At our Coffee Morning on 18th January the organisers were thrilled to be able to hand over a cheque to the value of £1418.20 to Josie Town and Sarah Darby, Members of the Board of Trustees of Mary Ann Evans Hospice. This was the total raised over the last 12 months, thanks to the continued support of all those who regularly attend these bi-monthly events.



Thanks and well done to our organisers and a big thank you to all who attend so regularly and have enabled us to contribute such a fantastic amount!

Life by the River

First of all I would like to wish you all a Happy, Healthy 2025. May God's grace enable you to see a future filled with hope, in everything you do.

It seems many weeks since I last wrote and leading up to Christmas was a busy time—I had four lovely dinners out with various groups sharing Christmas fellowship. On the Friday before Christmas I had gone to feed Jemima, the river was up a little and she had waddled into my garden. I hadn't noticed that it was slightly icy on the balcony and walking back to my front door, suddenly slipped and was flat on my back and couldn't get up, so had to call out to my neighbours who helped me up and brought me inside and made me a cuppa. Nothing broken but just badly bruised with the thoughts "Jane you have to be more careful."

On Christmas Day I went to Church, not having to cook the dinner, as I was coming to Coventry to my grandson Montell's. It was lovely, as we began he handed Melissa an envelope, which contained a baby scan. Her face was a picture, as it's her first grandchild we are all overjoyed. So getting on and crocheting a shawl.

The river is much the same—two swans, plenty of ducks who enjoy ducking and diving having a good soak in the water, a sweet little moorhen who when I am feeding Jemima sneaks up and takes a bit of feed and then shyly quickly swims away. Jemima is still as demanding, squawking away to let me know she is here ...for food. I sometimes feel she is stalking me as she stands on the bank opposite just staring into my house, waiting for me to open the door and go out.

We had our Parish lunch on January 9th and there was a young man who was walking to the many monasteries around England, he slept in the open air, so we gave him a meal and the ladies enjoyed his tales.

The second week in January we had notification to evacuate; I was quite shocked as the river was quite low, but we had a lot of rainfall through the night and the predictions were not good. So off I went to the Blue Boar just up the road, they made me very welcome with a comfortable room and good food. My friend came and visited me and we spent a couple of hours chatting while sitting by an open fire. On the third day I came home, the house didn't have to be raised so it was just the site that needed a good jet wash. A man at the pub said you must be mad living by the river, that's as maybe but you have to take the whole year into account and take the good with the not so good, and at the end of the day we were safe.

The river flooded the bridge and caused problems as people were driving through it and getting stuck as the ice made it dangerous. The farmer opposite sends up a drone throughout the day so we always have updated reports.

Life settles to its own pattern. I have joined the U3A and I am going to a card making class similar to when I first started making cards nine years ago with my craft buddy Diane, just once a month we do quilling, something to keep the brain ticking along.

I also have been “promoted” to secretary of our Mothers’ Union branch so we will have to see what that holds. I wish I had done shorthand all those years ago.

I think it’s time to close.

So remember whatever life holds put your hands into the hands of God and he will always be at your side

**Every Blessing
Jane Smith x**

Carol Singing Success!

Thank you very much to everyone who came along and joined our carol singing evenings and to those who donated to our collection. We raised a record amount of £645 for the Children’s Society which is a wonderful achievement.

We had two enjoyable evenings of singing accompanied by our small brass ensemble and we were made very welcome by the local community even receiving gifts of chocolates and mince pies. We look



forward to doing the same again this December – see you there!

Kathryn Unsworth

WORD SEARCH

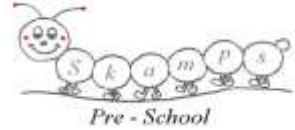
February opens with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the love between men and women: Valentine cards and wedding fayres abound. ‘Love’ as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, Education Sunday and National Nest Box Week.... Love is truly needed by everyone!



NAMING	CHRIST	CANDLEMAS	SIMEON
ANNA	TEMPLE	LOVE	VALENTINE
ROMANCE	MATTHIAS	FAIRTRADE	FORTNIGHT
COFFEE	BANANAS	CHOCOLATE	JUSTICE
POVERTY	NEST BOX	MARRIAGE	WEDDING
HOLOCAUST	LEPROSY	EDUCATION	SUNDAY

Skamps Pre-school Day Nursery offers full day care for babies from 6 weeks to school age at St Andrews House, Smorrall Lane, Bedworth CV12 0JP

- **30 and 15 hour** funding available
- Opening hours **8 am to 4 pm** but earlier or later times are available subject to demand
- **Emergency cover** and **School Holiday cover** available
- **See Facebook and Website for more information**



Please contact Gaynor 07714 326706
skampspreschool@hotmail.co.uk  www.skampspreschooldaynursery.com



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We publish 10 editions of the magazine each year.
A full page advert is £40 per month or £400 per year
A half page advert is £20 per month or £200 per year
A quarter page advert is £10 per month or £100 per year

**For further details please contact Tina Watkins on 02476 645278, 07905 297713
or by email at tinawatk1ns@btinternet.com**



Growing in Faith – As you visit the countryside or a park, look around at the diversity of trees and bushes. They look different – different varieties, colours, leaves, size and shape – but they all grow beside each other.

‘May we bloom where we are planted’ – As we take a moment to think of the impact that we have around the world as Mothers’ Union, may we remember the lives that are touched daily, at all

hours of the day when we pray for one another.

God has planted each of us where we need to be. He has placed us here in his time and in his way. As we are scattered like seeds in our communities, we are part of the new growth springing to life. He brings us new growth through the resurrection power of Christ and through the strength of the Holy Spirit. We are a people of hope. Let’s reflect this unshakeable hope together as Mothers’ Union.

On 11th January a Mothers’ Union Commissioning Service for the Coventry Diocese President and Trustees was held at Holy Trinity Church, Attleborough. The Presiding Bishop was the the Right Revd Edward Condry and the service was led by our MU Diocesan Chaplain Revd Denise Burgess.

We are pleased to announce that our very own Neva Khan has now been elected onto the MU Diocesan Board of Trustees and with her knowledge and guidance will greatly support the work of the Mothers’ Union. Well done Neva !



Pictured left: Viv Hopkins with Exhall MU’s display highlighting the 16 days of Activism against Gender-based Violence

Next meetings

Thursday 20th February 2025 at 7.30pm
Speaker: Rosie Lee (MU Speaker)

Thursday 20th March 2025 at 7.30pm
Speaker: Leonie Nibona from Burundi

And a personal note from Neva ...

“It was a truly beautiful and memorable service, with significant representation from St Giles. A huge THANK YOU for your support ... I truly appreciate it!”

Pictured below: Highlights from the service on 11th January.



Christmas Bazaar Update

The Christmas Bazaar, held on 23rd November, raised an amazing £2,877. On behalf of the Christmas Bazaar Committee, I'd like to take this opportunity to THANK all who donated prizes, gifts, cakes, drinks and items for stalls, the wonderful choir from Newdigate School and each of you for your consistent support to our Bazaar. The turnout on a cold wet day was phenomenal and because of you, great fun was had by all.

The following table shares the winners of the grand prize draw.



**CHRISTMAS BAZZAR
GRAND RAFFLE PRIZE DRAW
WINNERS 23rd November 2024**

PRIZES	DONATIONS	RAFFLE TICKET NO.	WINNERS NAME
Drinks Hamper	Exhall Parish	1757	Ruth
Luxury Christmas Hamper	Vicar's & Churchwarden's Team	1626	Margaret
Christmas Cake	Marks and Spencers	923	Marie
£25 Gift Card	St. Giles Church PCC	1645	Tina
£25 Gift Card	St. Giles Church PCC	833	Denise
£25 Gift Card	St. Giles Church PCC	522	Anna
£20 Gift Card	St. Giles Church PCC	822	Denise
£25 Gift Card	Exhall Mothers' Union	1029	Neva
Food Hamper	Craft Group	1466	Cynthia
4 Panto tickets	Exhall Drama Group	836	Anthony
2 Panto Tickets	Bedworth Civic Hall	1936	Jayne
Christmas Wreath	June Edwards	1806	Helen
£20 Vintage Toys Voucher	Chris Malbon	713	Anna
Bunch of Flowers	Bedworth Flower Shop (Ruth Eyden)	1691	Sam

***Neva Kahn
Bazaar Committee
Main Contact***

At a Glance - February 2025

MORNING PRAYER TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS at 8am in Church

Sunday 2nd	12.30 pm	Bedworth Seed Swap—Main Hall
Tuesday 4th	1.00 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm	Over 50s—Main Hall (weekly) Compline (weekly) Vicarage Home Group (fortnightly)
Weds 5th	10.30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 6th	4.00 pm	Youth Club—Main Hall (weekly term time)
Tuesday 11th	10.30 am	Service at Bede Village/Richmond Lodge
Weds 12th	10.30 am	Coffee, Craft & Conversation—Small Hall (weekly apart from 1st Wednesday)
Thursday 13th	2.00 pm 2.30 pm	Service at Fairfield Home Bereavement Drop-in—Small Hall (fortnightly)
Monday 17th	7.30 pm	PCC
Weds 19th	7.30 pm	Panto—The King's New Clothes—Main Hall
Thursday 20th	7.30 pm 7.30 pm	Mothers' Union—Small Hall Panto—The King's New Clothes—Main Hall
Friday 21st	7.30 pm	Panto—The King's New Clothes—Main Hall
Saturday 22nd	2.30 pm 7.30 pm	Panto—The King's New Clothes—Main Hall Panto—The King's New Clothes—Main Hall
Sunday 23rd	2.30 pm	Service at Bede Village

Funerals

*In the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil, for you are with me.*



Brian Leivers, who died on 21st November aged 88 years
Catherine Turner, who died on 26th November aged 90 years
Kay Gardner, who died on 9th December aged 80 years



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established in 1922 by their
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024 76 367149

Ministry and Admin

Vicar	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
Wardens	Neil Harris Vacant	07432 414798
Readers	John Owen Chris Wilson	0247636 6111 07717 523512
Administrator/Rotas	Penny Pallett	0247636 8008
Bereavement Drop-In	Sue Barnes	07946 051122
Electoral Roll	Beryl Owen	0247636 6111
Halls Bookings	Tina Watkins	0247664 5278 07905 297713
Parish Magazine	Tina Watkins	0247664 5278 07905 297713
Pastoral Care	Neva Khan	07496 859598
Readers	John Owen	0247636 6111
PCC Secretary	Carol Gough	027631 8219
PCC Treasurer and Gift Aid	Stephen Carter	0247631 2831
Safeguarding	Muriel Ganley	07988 477659
Website	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980

Church and Worship

Bell Ringing	Steve Watkins	0247664 5278 07926 989686
Brass cleaning	Chrissie Hughes	0247631 5468
Choir/Organist	Kathryn Unsworth	0247667 3325
11.45 Worship Band	Roy Edwards	0247664 4916
Flowers in Church	Irene Prideaux	0247636 1321
Prayer Chain	Chris Wilson	07717 523512
Verger	Mandy Williams	02476 337188

Young People, Nurture and Discipleship

Home Groups	Gail Phillip	024 7664 5030 07869 395980
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Other Groups and Activities

Drama Club	Tina Watkins	0247664 5278 07905 297713
Hospice Coffee Morning	Viv Hopkins	0247664 5161
Mothers' Union	Mandy Williams	0247633 7188
Over 50s Club	Patricia Munro	0247664 4507
Green Genies	Robert and Jackie West	0247636 2168

ST GILES CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 23RD NOVEMBER 2024



Christmas wreaths

The volunteers who work to keep our churchyard tidy would like to ask that Christmas floral tributes are removed by the end of February please.

Any remaining wreaths will be tidied away in early March.

Thank you

