AN EASTER beginning
PARISH MAGAZINE
April 2020 ~ Price 50p
SERVICES AT ST PAUL’S CHURCH

ALL SERVICES ARE SUSPENDED DURING THE PRESENT CRISIS

SUNDAYS

8am Holy Communion (said)
10am Parish Communion (with hymns)
10am Family Service (Second Sunday)

12 noon and 1 pm Holy Baptism (First Sunday)
4pm Messy Church (alternative worship for families) (Third Sunday)

WEDNESDAYS

10am Holy Communion
7.30pm Be Still (4th or last Wednesday of the month)

For Baptism & Marriage arrangements please call at the Parish Office: Tuesdays 10am to 12noon or Friday eve by prior appointment. See the directory on the inside front page for more details.

From a distance the world looks blue and green
And the snow capped mountains white
From a distance the ocean meets the stream
And the eagle takes to flight

Holy One, during this time of social distancing and lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, remind us that we are still connected to one another. We pray for those impacted by travel bans, those unable to connect with loved ones, those who have insurance, those who do not, those who are getting treatment, and all those who cannot get a hospital bed.

We pray for all of us, who are anxious and afraid. Remind us that we are infinitely connected to you, and we can come to you in prayer at any time, in any setting.
Dear All,

I write during quite disorientating times. In the space of a few weeks so much of our ordinary lives have changed. In a huge act of community, in an attempt to protect the vulnerable and support our NHS, we have been asked to do some drastic things. Closing our church is one of them.

These changes raise big questions for us as a church family. How do we continue to be the Church when we cannot do so many of the things we used to do? The worship, prayer, fellowship and service which are our heartbeat as a congregation cannot continue as before. It is a huge loss, and before I rush into encouragement or suggestions, I want to say that it is okay to feel sad. We are allowed to grieve for all that is lost, even if only temporarily. We miss our church. We miss our worship, especially as Holy Week and Easter approach. We miss one another. I encourage you to feel those feelings, alongside the other anxieties and worries the crisis provokes, and bring them all to God.

But with those feelings acknowledged and given their space, maybe we can begin to think again about how we are Church at this time. Our quiet moments of worship at home or in the garden may not be all we would want to give God, but God welcomes our faithful efforts. Our prayers might seem small in the face of the problems around us, but their power depends not on the pray-er, but on the God who hears them. We may not be able to run the groups and serve the community in the ways we usually do, but if we were to add up all the kindnesses each one of you are doing - the caring phone calls made, the encouraging cards posted, the bags of shopping delivered, the faithful work done - then St Paul’s Stockingford is still sharing God’s love.

There is a little meme going around social media at the moment that says “The Church is not empty - the Church is deployed!” Our Church building may be physically empty, but Church continues in every heart and home in our community where God is worshipped, prayers are said and love is shown. In this time, when our friends and neighbours are struggling with so many worries and griefs, be the Church for them. And may God bless you as you serve Him and them.

With prayers, always, Kate

Kate
WHY DO YOU GO TO CHURCH?

I’m sure that when asked, we would all come up with different answers to this question. Our opinions have been sought recently in the preparations for 200 by 200 and responses have been wide-ranging. However, I spotted a little article recently whose title, I CAN’T BE THE ONLY MILLENNIAL ATHEIST WHO GOES TO CHURCH really caught my eye and whose contents made me think.

The author described herself as a “strident anti-theist”, who in her childhood, accused her mother of child abuse for having her baptised without her consent! Yet she has now started attending her local church each week, whatever the weather, however she is feeling, and has found this to be “transformative”. How interesting!

When trying to gauge what the attraction was, the author suggested it could have been the beautiful architecture, or possibly a rich heritage of artwork, or even texts that spanned history. However, she came to realise that some personal struggles had left her “searching for comfort beyond the purely aesthetic”. In church attendance she finds she can escape from the trivia, preoccupations and obsessions of her own life and focus more on the wider world and longer view. Church is an antidote to everyday life.

She points out that the church community “cuts across the barriers of class, race and culture that govern our daily lives” and suspects that there are also “closet unbelievers” like herself, and those who entertains doubts. Of course there are! However, the church offers a real sense of community in everything from fundraising to communal hymn-singing.

Recent surveys apparently reveal that church attendance is increasing amongst Millennials and Generation Zs who seek solace and a sense of belonging, even though they don’t believe in God. The article finishes by encouraging non-believers to “give church a whirl. They welcome everyone – and provide a space where even stressed and frantic ‘churchgoing atheists’ like me can find our equilibrium”.

So, have we got something to learn from this? Will it help us grow our congregation? Is it possible to experience God without believing in God? Are we offering the right things? Do we need to target our outreach? What experiences are available in church that differ from everyday life?

What do YOU think?

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A few years ago we made several hedgehog holes in our garden fences and walls. There was some evidence that one, in particular was used, close to the hedgehog home we built, (sited near the place I previously found a hedgehog in a day nest) -we believe a hedgehog hibernated in the hedgehog home one year. When Coco arrived I had to reduce the size of the holes to prevent him escaping from the garden, and was never sure if hedgehogs could get through. We’ve seen one or two in the garden, usually Coco points them out, but haven’t been sure they haven’t just come up the drive and under the gate.

So, David having become more expert with the camera trap, I baited the most likely hedgehog hole with some dry dog food, just our side, and we left the camera trap set and focussed on it while we were on holiday. I was hoping there would be some mild weather and the hedgehogs might appear and prove they could get through. I was disappointed, it was far too cold and wet to tempt them out, but we did have some interesting visitors. There was only one rat making one visit (something of a relief), but 3 different cats came on several occasions – not going through the hole, just passing by and stopping for a snack. A fox, probably a young one, came by on two occasions. Squirrels were the most constant visitors, in daylight and when the infra-red camera was on (probably before it was completely dark, in late evening or early morning), both passing by in ones and twos and sometimes one going through the hole and the other over the wall as they chased about. On one occasion one chased another through the hole and back, obviously they’d found an adventure playground with food! Pigeons also showed an interest, passing by quite often, and the odd blackbird appeared and triggered a picture.

On our return, I enlarged the holes to their original size, and left the camera on to see if Coco could get out. I put food on the other side of the wall, and was gratified that, although he did try to get through for a snack, he didn’t succeed, only getting some when I’d put the bowl too close to the hole. Interestingly, however, there were far fewer visits from cats and squirrels and none at all from the rat or the fox. The smell of the dog probably dissuaded them, at least temporarily.

There is another hedgehog access hole which is in an insecure boundary and under fairly frequent attack, probably by Coco, but possibly other garden visitors. So I’ve set the camera to monitor that for a few days and see what is doing the damage. Then, when the weather warms up, I will monitor all the hedgehog holes in turn and see what visits when we (and Coco) are in residence. I hope they will get used to avoiding him and us and maybe come regularly when we are safely indoors.

As always on holiday, I kept an eye out for wildlife and also for books on local flora and fauna. Vietnam was rather a shock – apart from a few cabbage white type butterflies I saw just one moth, a few dragonflies and quite a lot of sparrows, which were pointed out by our guide as being very special and unusual, so probably
numbers built up quite recently. When we weren’t in cities we were mainly in the demilitarized zone and the effects of poisoning the rivers and deforestation by napalm, (which ceased about 35 yrs ago) are still evident – there is very little there that man isn’t farming and planting. It took 15 yrs before anything grew and they are now producing crops of bananas, rice etc, and farming ducks and pigs, but the native plants and animals haven’t really come back in sufficient numbers to be visible to tourists.

I did eventually find a bird book at Saigon airport – Birds of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos and a couple of very slim books on tropical flowers and tropical fruit (the latter with recipes!), but the ordinary bookshops didn’t sell even children’s natural history books, despite carrying small stocks of English classics and children’s books - and even Margaret Thatcher’s biography.

There was a lot more wildlife in Cambodia. Pol Pot was awful to people, but since he didn’t allow them to shoot anything or use agricultural chemicals – they had to grow all their own food - the wildlife flourished (what they didn’t catch to eat on the sly) and you see lots of dragonflies, egrets and smaller birds (hard to photograph or see well enough to identify, but definitely there). We glimpsed some lovely butterflies, too.

Sites of historical interest were also much more abundant in Cambodia, Vietnam having retained those in the big cities, but most of the rest of the DMZ was bombed so badly that very little was left. Pol Pot wasn’t interested in religion, so left the buildings alone. So in several ways Cambodia has more variety to offer the tourist, despite having had an equally devastating and more recent war. However, both produce a lot of art and craft items, and the people are lovely, so both are well worth a visit.

Marian

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**SPOGs Leader advertisement**

*Wanted a Leader/Helper for SPOGs,*

*If you want this choice position,*

*Have a cherry disposition,*

*Play games of all sorts,*

*You must be kind,*

*You must be witty,*

*Take us on outings and give us treats,*

*Able to incorporate our religion into some sessions too,*

*Always be firm but fair,*

*Care for children everywhere,*

*SPOGs runs on a Sunday night and we would welcome you with delight,*

*7pm till 8.30pm see you then!*

If you can volunteer or would like to know more speak to Steve, Sarah or Kate.  

Please still do this even though SPOGS is suspended until further notice. They will definitely need YOU when they start up again. Please offer your help!

Contribute at magazine@stpaulsstockingford.org.uk
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Email charlestaylor33@btconnect.com
CATHEDRALS AT NIGHT

2020 is The Year of Cathedrals, The Year of Pilgrimage. As part of these celebrations all cathedrals in England and Wales are going to open their doors for at least one very special evening and we are invited to experience the wonder of these most beautiful buildings by night! All are welcome and entry is free.

“Lose yourself in the beauty of choral evensong; see stunning art and architecture revealed by candlelight; be creative and have fun (with or without kids!); explore places you may never have seen before; enjoy exhibitions and special events; or take time simply to ‘just be’ in these extraordinary spaces of peace and tranquillity.”

The dates for the West Midlands area are:-

1 May - Birmingham
17 May - Christ Church, Oxford
  5 June - Hereford
  6 June - Lichfield
  20 June - Derby
  5 September - Coventry
  12 September - Worcester
  29 & 30 October - Gloucester

Why not pop along to one or more of our cathedrals, see it in a different light, and prepare to be amazed!

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Funeral Plans

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March is here, flowers are blossoming and the evenings are drawing out. These are just a few of the reasons for us all to feel that little bit more cheerful as the end of winter has come. However, a couple of other reasons I always start to get excited in March is that the drought of motorcycle racing comes to an end! The first race of the MotoGP season in Qatar will have taken place by the time you read this which leaves all of us fans asking ourselves will number 93 Marc Marquez dominate again this year on the Repsol Honda or will it be 04 Andrea Dovizioso on the bright red Ducati? Will the old man of the paddock, known as the GOAT (greatest of all time), VR46 Valentino Rossi (also known as The Doctor) pickup his game and show the kids he is up against that there is speed left in the old goat yet. And the guts to take the extra risks involved to gain that critical 0.027 seconds that decided last year’s winner in Qatar.

And what about last year’s rookie Fabio Quaratararo who impressed and shocked everyone with six pole positions and 7 podium finishes on a non-factory team bike! All customer specification bikes are last year’s models and even though they do get the chassis upgrades throughout the season, they have the previous year’s engine and electronics package. For example, the 2018 engine will be 10 – 20 BHP down on the 2019 engine depending on manufacture. And then there is Maverick Vinales who along with VR46 struggled last year for mechanical grip on the M1 Yamaha caused by the extra power - will the engineers in Japan get the new chassis dialled in to improve corner exit as the engine is bound to have that little bit more power?

Getting the power down is not just down to the tyres. Mechanical grip is very important and one thing you will never hear a bike racer say is that a bike has too much power, they always want more and a sweet handling chassis to make the most of it in corner entry and exit. Talking about corner entry even though Marc Marquez not only won but dominated last year he, along with our own 35 Cal Crutchlow, struggled with the front end of their bikes on corner entry.

I must stress that unlike us mere mortals these guys brake very late and hard to the point where the rear wheel lifts off the ground - (front forks are fully compressed). They then gradually release the brake as they approach the apex only fully releasing the brake at this point - (forks spring back up) as they hit the apex (bike is lent all the way over knee and elbow skimming the tarmac). This is referred to as trail braking. The Honda struggled with this causing our boy Cal Crutchlow to crash out of six races and Marc Marquez crashed out of one respectively. Marquez is so talented he makes it look so easy - people just don’t realise how hard he works to find a way of riding around the problems the Honda has in this area.

Moreover, let’s not forget Andrea Dovizioso and his team mate number 9 Danilo Petrucci. The Ducati is an unknown quantity this year as they went back to the drawing board, designed, and built a complete new bike over winter - will it be a disaster and worse than what they had last year?

Talking of team mates Marc Marquez is joined by his brother in the Repsol Honda team 73 Alex Marquez (Alex won the Moto 2 championship last year after 5 years of trying) which raises a few question not least did he get the ride because of his

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Craft Club</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Line Dancing</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>Forward in Faith</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>17:45</td>
<td>Mixed Martial Arts [MMA] (Children 6-13yrs)</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>Boxing (Children and Adults 6+ yrs)</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>20:00</td>
<td>Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) adults, children 14+</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Carers Support Group (1st Monday in month)</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
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<td>Stay N Play, £1 per family includes a snack + drink</td>
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<td>Exercise to music. Just £2.50 per session</td>
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<td>Quiz / Bingo</td>
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<td>Lunch – Cooked lunch with pudding £4</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
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<td>Yoga - All welcome</td>
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<td>Tea and Chat various activities fortnightly</td>
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<td>CGL- Family Support with Addiction</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>16:30</td>
<td>Rainbows (5-7) Guides (7-10) Brownies (10 – 16)</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Short Mat Bowling</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>16:30</td>
<td>Youth Club (Children with Autism)</td>
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<td>Friends of Whittleford Park: mtngs TBA</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
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<td>Premiere Puppy</td>
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<td>Keep Fit with Pat’s Personal Training</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
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<td>Sing and sign (baby signing)</td>
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<td>Pat’s Line Dancing (beginner)</td>
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<td>Disability Dance 3-7yrs &amp; 8-16yrs</td>
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<td>Boxing (Adults and Children 6+)</td>
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<td>Real Combat System (Age 14+)</td>
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<td>Exercise for over 55’s</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Stage fright (acting for all ages and abilities)</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Forward in Faith</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Nuneaton &amp; District Amateur Radio Club (1x monthly)</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
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<td>Premier Puppy and Dog Training</td>
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<td>Little Pegs mtngs every 3rd Sat of the month</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
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<td>Warriors (adapted martial arts for SEND children)</td>
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<td>Tourettes Action Support group (mtngs TBA)</td>
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<td>Tree of Life (every 3rd Sat in month)</td>
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<td>Sun</td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Ladies Fitness / Kickboxing Class (Non- Contact)</td>
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<td>Sun</td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Junior Mixed Martial Arts (6 – 13yrs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Football (Sunday league)</td>
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Contribute at magazine@stpaulsstockingford.org.uk
brother? And as Marc is so dominate now will he gift his brother a race win or two? And as Alex will be in his rookie year I’m sure his brother will be giving Alex plenty of advice and riding tips to help him get to grips with the technique needed to ride a MotoGP bike on the limit and if Alex does beat his brother fair and square will there be trouble in the garage and the help and riding tips cease? I for one can’t wait to find out and that is one reason I love March.

Since writing this article the Qatar MotoGP race was cancelled due to coronavirus which caused travel restrictions to Doha although as the lower classes had been in Qatar testing two weeks before the race weekend and remained in Doha the Moto3 and Moto2 races went ahead. So not the season opener I was expecting but the lower classes are still exciting but for slightly different reasons which I may write about at a later date if anyone is interested. Also, the next race in Thailand has been postponed and will now happen in October so it is looking like we will have to wait until the Grand prix of the America’s in Austin Texas before we find out.

The other reason I love March is it gets a bit milder and we start to get some beautiful sunny days so you may have noticed a few more motorcycles whizzing about on the country lanes, one of which is me! There is nothing like the feeling of freedom and tranquillity as you carve through a nice set of sweeping corners leaning the bike right over with the feeling of the rear tyre digging in as you start to open the throttle mid corner, driving you forward, picking the bike up as the corner opens out.

The sound of the engine note changing as the revs rise to a crescendo as you power down the straight, feeding in gears driving you forward to the next corner. The feeling that you are part of the scenery not looking at the scenery through the window of a tin box but being part of it. No pollen filter built into the air vents of a motorcycle unlike my car, so you get all the smells of the world, some good some bad.

Last year me and some biker friends went to the Alps and rode 17 different mountain passes and while at the top of the Stelvio pass, the highest paved mountain pass (9,045 ft above sea level) in the Eastern Alps, I looked out and started to feel quite emotional and a poem I read some years ago came back to me called High Flight which goes like this:

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I’ve climbed and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds – and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of; wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sun-lit silence. Hovering there
I’ve chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air;

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ADVERTISING IN ST PAUL’S MAGAZINE
(2020 RATES)
A half page costs £50 per year and a full page £75. We publish 10 issues a calendar year. We also accept adverts for shorter periods pro rata. More info from Parish Office on 024 7632 5359.

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SUBMITTING AN ARTICLE TO THE MAGAZINE
We want St Paul’s magazine to contain as much church and community news as possible. If you would like an article included in the magazine, please email it to magazine@stpaulsstockingford.org.uk.

Alternatively hand written articles must be handed to a member of the magazine team for typing up.

Your article can be about anything - a recent ‘different’ holiday, what brought you to St Paul’s in the first place or it could be about an activity you run at Church. Or maybe even a joke you’d like to share! Please include your name with your contribution!

Last date for copy for the May magazine is 22nd April.

Many thanks - St Paul’s Magazine Team (Pete Aldersley, Kate Massey, Anne Murray & Keith Chambers).

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Most of us are aware of fair trade and have seen the Fairtrade Mark on products lining shelves up and down the country… but what does it really mean, how does it work, why is it important and how can consumers really be sure that they’re buying products which have been fairly-traded?

Whether you’re interested yourself or want a handy resource to share with friends and family to spread the word, Traidcraft’s Mission and Transparency Lead, Robin Roth, has provided this quick-fire Q&A, scratching the surface of Fairtrade.

**What is Fairtrade?**

Fairtrade - written as one word - is an international standards and certification system in which producers and buyers agree to uphold certain minimum standards and payments and in return their product can be labelled with a Fairtrade Mark. Think of it as a kind of “organic” system for the way buyers and farmers behave. The whole system began with small, engaged social enterprises, like Traidcraft, wanting to improve farmers’ conditions by supporting them and paying well over the market rates to give them the necessary finance. In those days there were no standards just vibrant relationships between buyers and sellers. The Fairtrade label was introduced in 1992.

**How does Fairtrade work?**

Farmers agree to produce their crops according to certain guidelines: minimal pesticide use and ensuring that workers are paid adequately, for example. Buyers commit to paying a decent price, though they don’t have to ensure that their own workers are well paid or looked after. An inspector will come and check that everything has been done according to the rules. These ‘rules’ are written by Fairtrade International, an NGO based in Bonn, Germany. Both farmers and national Fairtrade organisations like the Fairtrade Foundation in the UK (of whom Traidcraft are co-founders) get to set the rules together. Businesses then have a choice of buying Fairtrade products – or not.

**What industries does Fairtrade cover?**

Fairtrade started with coffee and most products that have been added to the list subsequently are classic colonial products like tea, sugar, rice, juice and cocoa. This reflects our trading history and Fairtrade is very much an attempt to undo some of the immense damage that our colonial past inflicted on many farmers. Fairtrade is undeniably political – colonialism established huge plantations of mono-crops which were not always indigenous, like sugar in the West Indies and tea in Darjeeling. Farmers – or more likely

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workers – on these plantations were left working with no real opportunity to feed themselves once they had done their labour.

**Why is Fairtrade so important/such a good thing?**

Neo-liberal economics demands the lowest possible price for each and every commodity. Unlike manufactured products, farmers are a subject to wild swings in weather conditions and extended investment periods (a coffee plant can take up to seven years to fruit). In our frenzy to have everything as cheap as possible, and in our careless use of fossil fuels, we are driving millions of farmers off their land and into mega cities where they have very few opportunities. We are driving the people who feed us into bankruptcy and that doesn’t seem like a good long-term strategy. Fairtrade is, if nothing else, a moment to reflect on what we think we are really doing when we buy food.

Why is Fairtrade still as important today as it was when it initially started?

Fairtrade is critical, but it is no more critical than growing food organically, sustainably and with forest cover. It is not sensible to take one aspect of concern and see it as a separate issue from all the other challenges faced by farmers. This is equally true of our farmers here in Britain who are paid paltry amounts for their produce in the name of “consumer choice”. We need a well-rounded view of food that begins with local, organic and seasonal production and embraces Fairtrade where this is not possible. In my opinion, Fairtrade food that is not also organic is a contradiction in terms.

**How can people be sure they’re buying Fairtrade?**

The Fairtrade Mark ensures that minimum standards have been observed, which is a good start. Companies like Traidcraft, however, have a more nuanced view which focuses not on a set of minimum standards, but on a holistic approach to food. We deliberately only buy food from smallholders (farmers who own their own land) and not from plantations which are often owned by mega-corporations. We focus on organic produce wherever possible and on good food quality. Our philosophy extends to how we treat our own staff, the rights of non-discrimination, self-organisation, for opportunities to train ourselves and for the pay gap between top and bottom to be no more than a factor of 2.6. This is all embedded in what fair trade (written as two words) always set out to achieve.

**How does Fairtrade ensure a better life for people?**

It doesn’t. The idea that if you pay more money, or higher wages to somebody does not necessarily mean they have a better life. It still requires the farmer or the worker to use that money to invest in things like education,
farm machinery or health. Fairtrade does not force farmers to do this, but it certainly encourages them. I have met many farmers who did not use the additional income for any particular long-term benefit, but I have also met some fabulous examples of young people – particularly young girls – who have embraced every helping hand that was proffered and are now doctors, lawyers, farm managers or even politicians. That’s magic. That’s why I love working for a company like Traidcraft.  
*Andy & Julia Gazeley*
I was born in Coventry in May 1939 so lived through the whole of WWII. Despite my tender age certain images from that time are still very clear to me. Being dragged out of a warm bed when the sirens went to be rushed down to a cold damp Anderson shelter. The sound of bombs dropping nearby one within 100 yards of where we lived in Coundon. My dad was an ARP warden and he was nabbed when he stopped to buy some fags at the Wallace and didn’t immobilise his car. The milk being delivered by a horse and cart - the horse knew exactly where to stop - amazing!

And then VE day (Victory in Europe) 8th May 1945. I would be six in two days time. My parents were instrumental in organising a massive street party which was the start of the Brackley Close Residents & Children's Association and for many years afterwards outings to Wicksteed Park, Skegness and Weston super Mare were organised by this group on the anniversary of VE day.

These are my memories of that time. What are yours? John Law who also lived through those momentous years has suggested that others who lived and survived those times write a bit about their experiences for the May magazine. VE day was 75 years ago but the day’s before, on and immediately afterwards have burnt themselves into our memory’s like no others!

Please send all contributions to magazine@stpaulsstockingford.org.uk or post to 30 The Oaks Bedworth CV12 0AY by April 22nd.

Pete Aldersley
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I’ve topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace,
Where never lark nor eagle flew;
And while, with silent lifting mind I’ve trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

While at the top of that mountain, in that moment as the beauty of God’s creation stretched out below before me, I could feel God’s presence and I felt like I could touch the face of God.

It may seem like I have gone off on a bit of a tangent there and those of you who know me well will be saying he always does that, but for me I find riding motorcycles to be quite a spiritual thing that gives me inner peace during the ride and also at the destination God is there making his presence felt. Which is why I love March - it is the beginning of the biking season!

P.S: Please look out for bikes when pulling out at junctions and changing lanes. That biker is somebody’s loved one - father, son, or mother, daughter, friend or even someone you may know so please just do a double check before pulling out or changing lanes.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK

The Archbishop of Canterbury has paid tribute to the Archbishop of York in General Synod earlier today at what would have been his final Synod.

Archbishop Justin Welby praised the Archbishop of York who is currently travelling in the Pacific. He said: “He (John Sentamu) has gone to visit parts of the world which are suffering the effects of climate change right now. He has gone typically to be alongside those who are suffering: a pattern of his life throughout his ministry.”

The Archbishop continued: “Speaking about Sentamu when he’s not here … means we can show our gratitude, thanks and love for him without him being able to stop us.”

Recalling the Archbishop of York’s work on the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, Archbishop Justin added that “he has said that he himself was stopped at least eight times by the police”.

Reflecting on the Archbishop of York’s impact nationally, the Archbishop of Canterbury said: “The Church of England will miss you Sentamu and the wider country will miss you. There aren’t a lot of bishops who are so well known outside the church.”
FAITH JOURNEYS

Katy asked people to share their faith journeys last Autumn and I was asked to be the first victim and I gladly accepted. In January 2019 to Easter 2019 I undertook a BCDM Evangelism course which I really enjoyed. As part of the course we were asked to share our faith stories and I think the whole group found it really inspiring and extremely powerful. One particular lady’s story really inspired me, she was very shy and had not even spoken in group until that point. Once she started, she shared an amazing story about her shyness and how isolated she felt because of it but also the strength that she gained from her faith. It was a really emotional story for the whole group and it really did make us feel close to God.

As I mentioned in my personal testimony my faith journey started with my mum’s passing. Although feeling an immense amount of grief and loss I was filled with an incredible sense of love, peace and wellbeing. I felt so blessed, how fortunate I had been to have had such a wonderful mum who had been a real rock for me. I knew that what I had lost should not be mourned but celebrated.

We had started attending St Pauls the first Sunday after my mum’s passing and it was here that we encountered the love and friendship that St Pauls has on offer. We really feel part of the family and it has become a really significant and important part of our lives. It was also here that I really started exploring my feelings and where I understood it was truly God’s love that I was feeling. The blinkers had been taken from my eyes and I was seeing the world in a new Ultra High Definition way.

I for the first time really started seeing the beauty in the world; walking my dog Rosie in the sunshine, seeing kids laughing and smiling on their way to school with their parents, the sound of our grandchildren’s laughter it all had a restorative effect on my heart and soul. I truly feel reborn, I have such a sense of being a peace and being loved by God it is true overwhelming.

The journey I am on is wondrous, the experiences have been a privilege and I feel so grateful for. The Table Top talks, the Lent Groups, the small group we attend and helping with the Alpha course has really allowed me to understand my faith but at the same time share it with other people. I love talking if you haven’t noticed but I love more sharing ideas and my faith about God. Also I am trying really hard to listen I just get so excited at times it is hard. If I am like that with you please tell me to be quiet, I won’t be offended.

To be continued !!!

Nigel Blease

Contribute at magazine@stpaulsstockingford.org.uk
### PARISH ORGANISATIONS

**ALL ARE SUSPENDED DURING THE PRESENT CRISIS**

**OASIS:** Meets in term time Thursdays 10 am to 12 noon. A Support Group for those struggling with problems of stress, depression and in need of listening support in a safe group. Contact Gina on 7674 4860.

**STAY AND PLAY:** Thursday mornings in Church Hall 9.05 am to 11 am – all welcome at this Toddler group.

**SPOGS YOUTH GROUP:** This group provides a place for young people (11+) to meet. They meet every Sunday evening in term time; at 7.15pm. For more information, contact Sarah and Steve Marsden 7634 4233

**RAINBOW GUIDES:** (pre-Brownies)  
2nd Arbury (St. Paul’s) meet Thursdays between 6.15 pm to 7.15 pm in the Church Hall Contact www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested.

**BROWNIES:**  
1. Meet Tuesdays in the Church Hall between 6 pm and 7.15 pm.  
   Contact www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested.  
2. Meet Wednesdays in the Church Hall between 6pm and 7.15 pm.  
   Contact www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested.

**GUIDES:** Meet Tuesdays in the Church Hall from 7.30 pm to 9 pm. Contact www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested.

**LUNCH CLUB:** Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month in the Parish Centre at 11.30 am until 2 pm. Contact Parish Office 7632 5359.

**MOTHER’S UNION:** Meets every 2nd Thursday of each month in the Parish Centre at 2 pm. Contact Frances Ray on 7634 6505. New members warmly welcomed.

**ST. PAUL’S PASTORAL CARE GROUP:** Meets 2nd Tuesday at 2 pm in the Parish Centre. Contact Jo Male on 7632 8668.

**PENSIONERS’ DROP-IN:** Meet every Wednesday in the Parish Centre 2 pm - 3.30 pm. All welcome. Drop-in for a chat and cuppa and a game of bingo!!

**SEWING CIRCLE:** Meets Tuesday afternoons at various homes in the Parish. Contact Iris Seagrave on 7632 8091.

**ST. PAUL’S READING GROUP:** Meets monthly. Contact Church Office.

**BREAKFAST JOB CLUB:** Meets Monday mornings 9 am to 11 am. A “drop-in” for those who need help in searching for work. Excellent advice and help on CVs,

Contribute at magazine@stpaulsstockingford.org.uk
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<th><strong>CHURCH DIRECTORY</strong></th>
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| **Vicar**            | Revd. Kate Massey (Day off Friday)  
Tel: 7637 2089  
Email: revkatemassey@gmail.com |
| **Curate**           | Revd. Jo Joyce (Day off Friday)  
Tel: 07588 576351.  
Email: revjoannajoyce@outlook.com |
| **Readers**          | Colin Udall, Tel: 7674 5171  
Emma Kennedy Tel: 07960 970 061 |
| **Parish Administrator** | Anne Murray  
Email: stpaulsstockingford@hotmail.co.uk |
| **Churchwardens**   | Susan West Tel: 7639 5490  
Andrew Godfrey Tel: 7634 3492 |
| **PCC Secretary**   | Joanna Boughey  
Email joanna_boughey@hotmail.com |
| **Treasurer**        | Gary King Tel: 7674 8126  
Email: garygpk@googlemail.com |
| **Gift Aid Secretary** | Paul West Tel: 7639 5490  
Email: paul.west47@ntlworld.com |
| **Deanery Synod Reps.** | David Spiers Tel: 7635 1108  
Chris Smith Tel: 7637 3900 |
| **Organists**        | Geoff Cowley and Andrea Godfrey |
| **Music Group**      | Andrea Godfrey Tel: 7634 3492 |
| **Parish Office**:   | Mon & Tues: 10am to 12noon Tel: 7632 5359  
Fri: (By appointment) 7pm to 8pm  
Parish Administrator: Anne Murray  
Email: stpaulsstockingford@hotmail.co.uk |
| **Baptism Enquiries** | Please contact the Parish Office (see above) |
| **Marriage Enquiries** | Please contact the Parish Office (see above) |
| **Parish Centre & Church Caretaker** | Jane Udall  
Tel: 7674 5171 |
| **Safeguarding Officer** | Ann Pipe Tel: 7639 4655 |
| **Website Administrator** | Andy Gazeley  
Tel: 7638 5354  
Email publicity@stpaulsstockingford.org.uk |