

**The United Benefice of St Giles, Killamarsh
and St Matthew's, Renishaw
April 2024**

To be Christ in Church and Community

Date	St Matthew	St Giles
7 th Easter 2	Holy Communion	Service of the Word
14 th Easter 3	Service of the Word	Holy Communion
21 st Easter 4	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
28 th Easter 5	Holy Communion	Holy Communion

Easter at St Giles Church





Flower arrangements by Margaret Hall and photographs by John Hall.

New beginnings by Ann Ward

One Spring morning whilst in the garden
Just listening and looking around
I saw new beginnings before me
New life springing from the ground.
It made me think of our lives
The new beginnings we have to face.
They are not always what we wanted
But we accept them with God's good grace.
As we walk the new paths before us
The Saviour will be by our side
Giving us confidence to face them
As He did His, that first Eastertide.

New beginnings for us all

This will be the final newsletter compiled and edited by Revd Michael over so many years and now more recently by myself .

Endings and new beginnings. We are all in this current phase as we move towards being in a vacancy which will begin on the 18th May (my birthday) when I will be 70 years old therefore will no longer be your incumbent. From the 18th May I will have to officially stand down and consequently have no responsibility for the benefice. The assistant Area Dean, the Area Dean and the Archdeacon will all play their important part to ensure that the benefice is cared for.

I leave with utter thankfulness that I have been able to serve both parishes with the skills, knowledge and talents that I have. In early June Mick and I would have been here for seventeen years.

During that time I have met some incredible people. I have had the privilege of conducting weddings, baptisms, funerals as well as Sunday worship and those other 'stand alone' services like the Commemoration of the Departed and the Festival of Trees service.

I have worked alongside wonderful people, too many to name, so thank you to all who, over the years, have supported my ministry.

Endings and new beginnings. As one chapter closes so another begins for St Matthew's, Renishaw and St Giles, Killamarsh.

- **All Sunday morning services are covered at both churches well into September**
- **Baptisms will be covered by Revd Andy at St Peter and St Paul, Eckington**
- **Weddings Revd Canon Frank Mercurio**
- **Funerals Revd Mike Gillingham/ Mr John Hall**
- **Killamarsh Methodist Church liaison- Ben Wheelhouse**
- **2nd Sunday in October at the Methodist Church. This is their ongoing community meal which is open to all. They are happy to put extra tables out for people from St Matthew's and St Giles to join in with their fellowship meal. This potentially could help Father Georges fundraising initiatives which all three churches support.**
- **Revd Andy has already been to Renishaw Primary School and has met with Simon Fuller, the head teacher, and Brian Ridgeway, the Chair of Governors. Revd Andy will be continuing my work there.**
- **Revd Andy will also be the ex-officio at St Giles Church of England School.**
- **Ben Wheelhouse is our new church hall manager.**

Revd Michael and I will publish a final letter to you all on May 12th

Discover Easter @ St Matthew's Church, Renishaw **16th March 2024**

On Saturday 16th March the wonderful dedicated volunteers put on an event in the Church called Discover Easter. This is the first time this has been offered in Renishaw and what a success it was!

Various craft stations were offered including making your own Easter Gardens, decorating a clay cross to making Easter nest buns. All in a fun and interactive way. A raffle was offered and free refreshments including toasted hot cross buns were served.

The event was well attended and over 70 people attended. The comments received were positive and I can't wait for the next one. The event was free and people were free to ebb and flow from each station as they wished. Each craft item taken home was individually made by that person. I hope that the wonderful arts and crafts would offer the opportunity to ask

discussions about the Easter story and the ultimate sacrifice Jesus paid for us.

Special thanks to Ann Morton, Kay Bond, Liz Nicholas, Anne Brown, Helen Ramsden, Margaret Hall, John Hall, Lyn Pattimore, Janet Cresswell for your hard work on the day and in preparation beforehand. Also to Alfie and Vincent for all your wonderful artwork that was put around the Church.

Discover Easter was also held at St Giles Church Hall on Saturday 23rd March from 2pm-4pm.

The hall was teeming with adults and children alike as they were provided with opportunities to learn about the true meaning of Easter whilst engaged with top quality art and crafts and the enjoyment of constructing an Easter garden.

Thank you to everybody who helped in any way either setting up, running specific stalls or serving refreshments.

Let us hope and pray that the Easter message telling of the risen Christ has been understood by those who attended.

St Giles School

Pupils from St Giles Church of England School came into St Giles Church on Wednesday 27th March to celebrate Easter. Children from Key Stage 1 began their wonderful, joyous service at 9.30am. There were lots of adults-parents, grandparents, friends and family members who watched their children sing. Some children were invited forward to read a script telling the Easter story whilst others held up their unique art work.

The KEY Stage two Easter service was the best that has ever been celebrated at St Giles. A teacher called Emma Burdett was responsible for the construction of the service. The art work depicting different scenes from Holy Week and Easter Day were stunning. All the children who read from their specific script did so with confidence and ease.

The communal singing was amazing.

It is truly wonderful to know that the true meaning of Easter has been received and understood by all who were at church that day.

Thank you to staff and adults who attended the very special service.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Shared by Killamarsh Methodist Church and St Giles Church

This annual collaborative Walk of Witness began at 11am at St Giles Church, then moved onto the New War Memorial, to the Co-op, just below Shaw's fish shop and finally at the Methodist peace garden. At each station a bible reading was offered, a hymn sung followed by a prayer. There were just over thirty people who took part in this public demonstration as each

one of us participated in the Walk of Witness, walking behind a person carrying the cross.

This is a very moving experience for young and old alike, those with mobility issues whilst others could speedily walk along yet all spiritually enacting the walk of our Lord to his torturous death.

St Giles Church Hall Shop Refurbishment

The shop has had a recent refurbishment with decorating and new white melamine shelving . This will not only enhance the shop but will provide more space to display the new stock.

The shop hours are Monday 2pm-5pm
Tuesday 2pm-5pm

St Giles Church Hall new Parish Office

With the impending benefice vacancy a decisive decision has been made by St Giles PCC to turn the existing bar area into a Parish Office. This important office is gaining momentum.

St Giles Church Hall

Our new Church Hall manager is Ben Wheelhouse. He will be responsible for the overall upkeep and maintenance of the hall as well as taking all the church hall bookings. Two new contemporary banners have been designed and produced to further publicise this building.

Our visit to Derby Cathedral on 20th April 2024

Thanks to all who want to come and support Ben on this very special and important occasion when the Bishop of Derby, the Rt Reverend Bishop Libby will licence Ben into the important role of Reader. For Ben this will be a momentous occasion in his life. For the weeks leading up to the 20th April please pray for Ben, Rachel and Grace.

NEW REVISED PICK UP TIMES- please be on time

Cooper's Coach will leave St Giles Church Hall at	10.25 am
St Peter and St Paul, Eckington church hall	10.40 am
Opposite St Matthew's Church	10.50 am
Arrive at The Cathedral	11.50am

Ben needs to be at the cathedral for 11:50am so the coach will temporarily park immediately outside the cathedral for us all to disembark.

The actual service starts at 2.30pm. May I suggest that you find your seat in the cathedral from 1.50pm. In between time there are suitable places near the cathedral to get a drink and something to eat.

Sunday 21st April St Giles Church Hall 12noon until 2pm

Come along to congratulate Ben on becoming a Reader in the Church of England. There will be tea, coffee, juice and light refreshments as we all come together to share in this wonderful occasion. All are welcome.

Warm Space initiative

Both churches received a grant to be used up to 31st March in order to run this very necessary and worthwhile initiative.

This is what Justin Welby, The Archbishop of Canterbury has written:-
“In the face of the cost of living crisis, time of uncertainty and loneliness, Warm Spaces brought warmth and connection.”

I would like to thank all who continue to be involved with Warm Spaces for their generosity of time and kindness extended to all who come to Warm Space.

Father Georges in Madagascar

In last month's newsletter Father Georges requested that we could perhaps help him to buy fish to go into the fishing pools. A later e-mail requested £150 to purchase 1000 fish. Thanks to the generosity of key donors, selling items from the Rectory and Killamarsh Methodist Church's donation a wonderful £400-00 has been sent and received by Father Georges. Thank you to those who have contributed to this initiative. The fish stock will further enhance the nutrition of those for whom Father Georges and Eveline serve.

New beginnings

After the tremendous sadness of Holy Week as we have shared in the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ we all have come to that glorious Easter morn when death has been defeated and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is risen. Alleluia.

You can imagine the confusion and utter helplessness and loneliness of those disciples who were bereft with grief at the loss of their beloved Jesus who had tried so desperately hard to help them to understand that it was only through his earthly death that he could rise in glory to be with

Christians worldwide. It is estimated that now there are approximately two and a half BILLION Christians worldwide. How unbelievable is that! And each one of you reading this article is part of that statistic.

Endings and new beginnings

As we all continue to journey with our Lord for some their earthly journey has ended and are now with our Lord in the heavenly realms. For others we continue to be pilgrims along the way, learning from Him and serving Him with willing hearts and minds.

For Revd Michael and myself our time at St Giles and St Matthew's will draw to a close on the 18th May. We have tried to serve God's people to the best of our ability every day of our shared lives.

The Rectory has been a place of rest and sanctuary for many whilst for others it has been a place to talk about weddings, funerals or baptisms. Many Bible Study courses have been led by Revd Michael. Many people have had the opportunity to engage with Alpha Courses or other courses. During our time we have taken people to the Holy Land.

With our heart for mission St Giles has run Messy Church and Breakfast Club before Covid. There is so much we could write about... needless to say we all have our memories of our own service to the Lord.

So, as the Rectory becomes empty little by little we are packing away invaluable memories of our time at St Giles and St Matthew's.