

# Church Drive February 2016



## News from St. Giles Church, West Bridgford

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## The Rector Writes.....

What makes you a Christian?

It is a question that can prompt a whole variety of answers. Being a nice person, going to church, believing in God, being brought up attending a certain school.

It sometimes surprises people to discover that the Bible – that most Christian of books - gives a straightforward and robust answer to that question. A Christian is someone who believes that God has acted definitively, decisively and uniquely in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, in revealing Himself to the world and who seeks to live a life of love in trusting in the God who is found in Jesus. This understanding of Christianity has always been (and will always be) a challenge to alternative religious and secular views of the world.

As St Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth –

*‘we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.’*

1 Cor 1: 23

Either God is ‘the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ’ or He isn’t. If the Christian story is true, it really is true, or it is just a story – a nice story perhaps; but make believe nonetheless, and if it just make believe then it has no value for us, again in the words of St Paul –

*‘If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith... If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.’*

1 Cor 15: 13

This month enter into Lent and we will read together the Easter story and exhort one another to live in the power of the Spirit that 'raised our Lord Jesus from the dead'. As we approach our Easter services let us remind ourselves that the Easter message is not some vague assertion that 'good wins in the end', or that 'love triumphs over evil'.

Rather the Christian message of Easter is that because God has decisively acted in raising his Son from the dead we can be confident that his words were true, that he was who he claimed to be, and that he will do for us what he claimed to do. Because of the raising of Jesus from the dead, we can be confident that God has not finished with this world, or simply left us to our own devices but will enter in to history once again to bring it to an end, and set all things right.

As Bishop Tom Wright put it in The Times, 11th April 2009:

*Easter was the pilot project. What God did for Jesus that explosive morning is what He intends to do for the whole creation. We who live in the interval between Jesus's Resurrection and the final rescue and transformation of the whole world are called to be new-creation people here and now. That is the hidden meaning of the greatest festival Christians have.*

Not sure about the Easter story? The historicity of the gospels? It matters, it really does. Want to look afresh at the historical grounds for the Christian faith? Then Tom Wright's – 'The Challenge of Jesus' is a great place to start.

Wishing you every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Poudley'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

# Meet our new Children & Families Worker

Some seasons in life bring a lot of change and that has certainly been the case for us recently. Over the last six months we have had a baby, moved from Birmingham, bought a house and found a new church home! We are so grateful for the support that we have had from our friends and family and we are now beginning to feel more settled.



So, lets go back six years. I moved to Birmingham in January 2010 for the

job of Youth Worker at Christ Church, Selly Park. I had just returned from eight years of living in the United States. I had been studying theology and working for a church in Boston, Massachusetts.

Although I was primarily responsible for ministry to 11-18 year olds at Christ Church there was not a children's worker at the time, so I also started and ran Messy Church, helped with the toddler groups, children's holiday clubs, residential trips and primary school assemblies. I really loved my five years at Christ Church. The children and young people were amazing and we had lots of fun!

Colin and I met in September 2010. Colin grew up in Toton, Nottingham and after moving away and doing lots of different jobs he moved back to join the Fire Service. He loves walking in the

Peak District, loves fishing and has a passion for real ale!

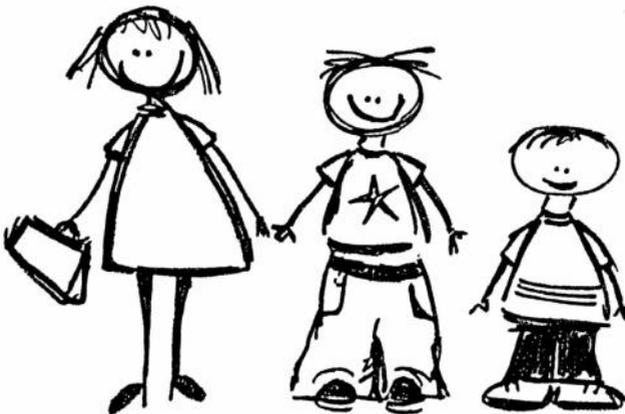
We got married in rural Suffolk, which is where I grew up, in August 2013 and our gorgeous son Caleb was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015.



I have a real passion to see children grow in their faith and to see people of all ages using their gifts to serve God. I love to use creative ways to talk about Jesus and I am really looking forward to the role of Children's and Families Worker at St. Giles.

Thank you for making us so welcome. We are looking forward to getting to know you all more.

**Ellen Dann**



# Youth Alpha

For the past four months in our Sunday morning youth group we have been taking part in the Youth Alpha course. Many of you will know what Alpha is, but for those who don't - it is a series of interactive sessions that allows you to explore the basics of Christianity.



As leaders we thought that doing this course with our young people would be an amazing opportunity to explore with them as they ask some of the 'big' questions about God, faith and life. And we have been so privileged to have been a part of the journey with them; through what has been an incredible 12 weeks where 6 young people came to know Christ as their own personal Lord and Saviour.

We were led on this course by two Canadian guys called Jason and Ben through the Youth Alpha videos. Each week explored a new topic about the basic Christian faith, starting off simply with 'Who was Jesus?' And moving on to topics such as 'Why is there Evil?' 'How do I pray?' 'What is the Holy Spirit?' and ending with a challenge all Christians face, 'What about telling others?' Jason and Ben made asking some of those tougher questions really simple, and gave answers that really helped the young people to understand and come to terms with the Christian faith.

Typically each video would start with an introduction from Jason and Ben on the day's theme. Then we would have an ice breaker question, and watch on the video as random people from the street were asked bizarre questions such as "If you could have a superpower what would it be?" or "What is your favourite viral video and why?" Each video had three different questions, with the first always being an ice breaker, and after seeing the people from the video answer we would split into three groups and have a

discussion ourselves. One particular question we got asked was this “If you imagine your relationship with God as this swimming pool, where are you?”



The Alpha course has been amazing in helping the young people move along their journey of faith, and in allowing some to come to the realisation that they truly believe in God and can make a personal commitment.

I would like to thank all the leaders for their passion and time in working with the young people, particularly Will and Jess who for 12 weeks were there every Sunday to lead our groups. I also want to say a massive thank you to all of our young people, without you our lives would not be as full as they are.

Thank you for all your continued prayers. God bless.

**Andy Wright, Youthworker**

# Crosslight: Passion Play for Lent

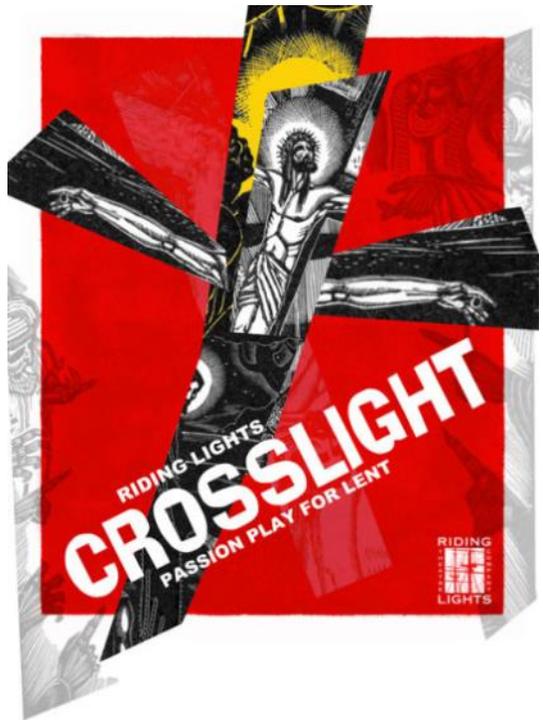
I am delighted that Riding Lights, a Christian Theatre Company, are returning to St Giles to perform CROSSLIGHT, a Passion Play, written and directed by Paul Burbridge. The performance at St. Giles, a communal experience of theatre and worship, will be on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.

In their narrative, Riding Lights is described as one of the UK's most productive and long-established independent theatre companies. Founded in York over 30 years ago, partly through the initiative of a city

-centre church, the company continues to take innovative, accessible theatre into all kinds of communities far and wide and we are so pleased to be able, once again, to provide the venue for one of their exciting, exhilarating productions.

Their aim is to create unforgettable, entertaining theatre which challenges us all to examine the world we inhabit and the ways we live amongst each other. While the company's routes are in Christian ethos, their work is open to everyone, using faith as a springboard to explore all aspects of life.

“CROSSLIGHT” is the story of Christ's Passion as seen through the eyes of Simon Peter, the disciple chosen to lead, who is in



pieces.

Caught in the cross light of flickering candles at the last supper, the torches of Gethsemane, the firelight in the courtyard, by the searching gaze of his Lord, Simon 'the rock' is shattered.

As he hangs from the cross, Jesus is surrounded by a jeering crowd, laughing at his claim to be the Son of God. A small group of family and friends stands by until the agony ends. But the great friend who, more than any other, has stood by Jesus throughout the story is conspicuous by his absence. One man is missing – one who knows the truth.

“CROSSLIGHT” draws us into the dramatic events of Christ's Passion and into the experience of one disciple who failed, despite everything he believed so passionately.

Tickets are priced at £10.00 for adults and £5.00 for young people (up to and including the age of 18), if purchased before the end of February. After that date the prices will be £12.00 & £6.00. For a group booking of 10 persons and over the price will be £10.00 per ticket, no date restriction. The Box Office number is 07590 311992.

The play will be advertised extensively in West Bridgford so to avoid disappointment, please order your tickets as soon as they become available. They will be on sale at St. Giles as from Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

Refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the performance and there will also be the opportunity to chat with the cast in post-production discussion.

It promises to be a very exciting, uplifting, thought provoking evening. The perfect event to lead us into Easter.

**Tony Vokes**

# Moving Forward in Our Worship

As you know, I arrived in November, and having survived the Christmas rush, I'm enjoying working with the choir on some new musical settings of the texts traditionally used in the Communion Service, the Gloria, *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) Acclamation (Christ has died, Christ is risen) Lord's Prayer and *Sanctus* (Holy, Holy) . The choir is really enthusiastic and capable, and we're hoping to build up a collection of these new settings which will hopefully be popular with the congregation – and I shall be interested in your feedback about this. Historically, these texts (in Latin) and known as the 'ordinaries of the Mass' were sung by choir alone and this is still often the case in Cathedrals today. There are, therefore, many settings of both English and Latin versions of these 'ordinaries' but many were written for cathedral choirs and are too long for parish worship, while the shorter examples more suitable for congregational participation are (in all honesty) not very tuneful. Accordingly, I'm experimenting with some new settings, written in four-part harmony for the choir, but hopefully with strong melodies for the congregation to sing. We've also begun working on some new short devotional chants to be sung during the administration of the Eucharist – trying to enhance the spiritual atmosphere at this climax of the Eucharist service. These chants seem to be popular with the St Giles congregation - such chants are an important feature of services in France, where I spent some time as a postgraduate student. The pieces we're working on are harmonized versions of melodies taken from or inspired by Gregorian chant, chants from the Taizé community in France, while others are drawn from Jewish and Greek Orthodox Church traditions.

Both of these ventures reflect my views about worship in a parish context. I believe that, as Anglicans, we need to think about renewing our faith through the introduction of new liturgical music with an eternal and spiritual quality, bringing us closer to God, but also practical for use in parish worship. Perhaps we can refresh our worship by drawing from some of these ancient well-springs of Christian melody.

Indeed, I have been very interested in the 'Jazz' Eucharist Services which takes place at Brecon Cathedral as the annual jazz festival week there draws to a close – it's an experimental partnership, largely very successful, and sometimes really spiritual and inspiring. This leaves me thinking about the value of using some musical ideas drawn from the jazz tradition in worship. I ask myself what music is more deeply spiritual than Chick Corea's 'Crystal Silence', Bill Evans's 'Peace Piece', David Newton's 'Blessed Land', Duke Ellington's 'In the beginning God', or McCoy Tyner's marvellous 'Contemplation'? Actually, I've been playing piano arrangements of such pieces at quiet communion services for some years, without saying what they were, and receiving nothing but favourable comment about their spiritual and meditative nature. Furthermore, this response seemed to be coming from adherents of 'traditional' and 'contemporary' worship traditions alike, suggesting that the differences between these groups can be bridged or avoided when music associated with neither of these groups is used. It's a question of being selective, and finding music that's spiritually appropriate and can enhance the liturgy. So let's experiment while our church still 'hath life and breath' to do so!

**Paul Bracken**

For our 10.30am worship we are making some time and space for all involved in our worship to meet together for a 'Worship Vision' afternoon on Sunday 20th March . We spend a lot of time choosing songs and rehearsing but this afternoon is going to be a time for us all to focus on why and how we worship God. Its is going to be an opportunity for us to share our different experiences of worship with each other and to discuss and pray about worship at St Giles. We will be talking about why we worship through songs and how we enable others at St Giles to worship. We will discuss our vision for worship at St Giles moving forward from now. Lee speak to us on his knowledge and experience. It will also be an opportunity for us to worship as a group together without the pressure of preparing for a service. Do pray for us, that God would really speak to us and guide us in the way we lead worship here at St Giles.

**Hannah Crawford**

# Looking Ahead to Christian Aid Week



## **This is the week we love every neighbour.....**

Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and not just the ones next door or at the end of the street. Christian Aid Week unites over 20,000 churches to put this love in to action and last year the total raised across West Bridgford was £14,500. So, what's in the pipeline for this year at St Giles?

**House-to-House Collections:** this is how Christian Aid Week began, and it still raises an incredible £6.5m every year, and is how we can demonstrate God's love for our neighbours. If you have never been part of the St Giles' collection team before then we would love to have you help.

**Friday Cake Break:** what easier way could there be to fundraise than drink coffee, eat cake and chat?! Come along and enjoy some great refreshments on Friday 20th May.

**The Big Event:** on Saturday 21st May, the final day of Christian Aid Week 2016, will see the return of a whole-church event for Christian Aid. We're still in the planning stages but are aiming for an early-evening, family-friendly event including a beetle drive, food, raffle, music and a bar! Save the date in your diary!

**Meals through May:** some wonderful St Giles hosts will once again be running meals to raise funds for Christian Aid – a light lunch, a bbq in the sun, an indulgent afternoon tea or a Sunday roast. If you might be interested in hosting please contact Rachel.

The fund-raising focus this year is to help some of the very poorest people in Bangladesh who are frequently flooded out of their homes. £250 can provide a Christian Aid Home Safety Package to flood-proof homes by raising them on to an earth plinth to give a safe place to re-build, grow crops and keep livestock.

## Meet your neighbour Morsheda

As Jesus explains in his parable of the Good Samaritan, our neighbours aren't just the people who live next door. Every one of us is a neighbour – loved by God and to be loved by his followers. This is Morsheda. She may live in Bangladesh, but she's still our



neighbour. Flooding is a terrifying part of Morsheda's everyday life. The single-room, corrugated-iron house she shares with her children has been flooded four times. But a Christian Aid Home Safety Package could change her life, enabling her home to be raised above the floods and give her a goat, seeds and a wormery to produce compost so that she can earn a long-term income.

If you have any ideas for fundraising during Christian Aid week or would like to get involved then please let me know. And keep an eye on the bulletin as the events for the week are confirmed.

**Rachel Gregory**

# Update from the PCC

**1 Something Else:** As most of the Something Else congregation now also come to the 10.30am service, the Something Else Sunday evening service will cease at the end of February.

**2 Children and Families Worker:** Ellen Dann has been appointed as the new Children and Families Worker and will begin work after February half term. Please do take the opportunity to introduce yourself to Ellen, her husband and their baby son at the 10.30 service.

**3 Buildings:** The hall fire doors have been successfully installed. The lightning system needs some work at the east end of the church – this expenditure was approved. Expenditure was also approved for a professional survey for boundary trees, as a branch had fallen from one and several might be dangerous. The Hall meeting room needs re-plastering and re-decoration and cottage no 9 is to be vacated in May, when some remedial work will be undertaken. Quotes for projection, screens and sound systems for church are currently being sought. Please speak to Brendan if you would like to know more about any of these projects.

**4 Finance:** Eddie Pearce presented financial results for 2015 and a proposed budget for 2016. For more information please talk to Eddie, or to Chris Lane who has taken over as Treasurer.

**5 Parish Share:** It was agreed to contribute £110k as our Parish Share for 2016.

**6 Use of church:** From now on, the choir will use the main church on one Friday each month, to allow the Youth nights to take place in church on all other Fridays.

**7 Community Noticeboard:** The new noticeboard is on the wall by the vestry door. Please do look at it and use it!

**8 Plans for the South Porch:** Bruce Bradley has produced plans for modernising the entrance to the main church porch, which were circulated. Please speak to any member of the PCC if you would like to know more about this.

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March

**Dizzy Prentice, PCC Secretary**

# St Giles' Directory

<b>Rector</b>	<b>Lee Proudlove</b> rector@stgilesparish.com	Tel: 981 1112
<b>Church Wardens</b>	<b>Alison Place</b> <b>Jude Hill</b>	Tel: 07726117096 Tel: 989 9723
<b>Administrator</b>	<b>Claire Sheard</b> admin@stgilesparish.com	Tel: 07948 834250
<b>Youth Worker</b>	<b>Andy Wright</b> youthworker@stgilesparish.com	Tel: 07880 313884
<b>Pastoral Care Co-ordinators</b>	<b>Daphne Carter</b> pastoral@stgilesparish.com	Tel: 974 3749
<b>House Groups</b>	<b>Katie Conley</b>	Tel: 923 4721
<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Doreen Ottway</b>	Tel: 981 3689
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	<b>Dizzy Prentice</b>	Tel: 07951538670
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	<b>Chris Lane</b> treasurer@stgilesparish.com	Tel: 07527462078
<b>Sacristan</b>	<b>Maureen Swann</b>	Tel: 859 0975
<b>Junior Church</b>	<b>Sarah &amp; Iain Moppett</b>	Tel: 974 4442
<b>Sunbeams</b>	<b>Claire Sheard</b>	Tel: 07952247147
<b>Tiddlers</b>	<b>Caroline Crew</b>	Tel: 914 2465
<b>Weddings</b>	<b>Caroline Harper</b>	Tel: 914 5650
<b>Church Cleaning and Flower Rota</b>	<b>Helen Jarvis</b>	Tel: 981 9947

# Coming up @ St Giles

## **Sunday 28th February**

Visit to St Giles by Bishop Paul—9am and 10.30am services

## **Wednesday 2nd March, 6th April, 4th May, 7.45pm**

Safe Space in church - self-help group for people living with anxiety and depression

## **Wednesday 10th Feb, 9th March, 13th April, 11th May 8.00pm**

Ladies' Evening at The Parlour

## **Tuesday 9th Feb, 8th March, 12th April, 10th May 10.30am**

Seniors' Coffee Morning at Bradmore

## **Monday 8th Feb, 14th March, 11th April, 9th May, 8.00pm**

First Priority Prayer Meeting in church.

## **Monday 29th Feb, 28th March, 25th April 8.00pm**

Men's Social at the Willow Tree Pub

## **Monday 7th March 3.45—5.15pm**

Messy Church - activities, stories, songs, food  
(no Messy Church in April during Easter school holidays)

## **Saturday 12th March 7.30pm**

Riding Lights Theatre Company perform *CROSSLIGHT*

## **Thursday 24th March, 7.30pm**

Maundy Thursday supper and Communion

## **Friday 25th March, 10.00am—12 noon**

Good Friday Workshop

## **Friday 25th March, 3.00pm**

Good Friday Meditation

## **Saturday 26th March, 9.00am**

Decoration of church for Easter - everyone welcome!

## **Sunday 24th April, 12 noon**

AGM, PCC elections and parish lunch