

April Newsletter 2021

The United Benefice of St. Giles, Killamarsh and St. Matthew's, Renishaw

April Sunday Services

Date	Time	Church	Service
04/04/21 Easter Sunday	10.00 am	St. Giles	Holy Communion
	10.00 am.	St. Matthew's	Holy Communion
11/04/21 Easter 2	10.00 am.	St. Giles	Holy Communion
	10.00 am.	St. Matthew's	Holy Communion
18/04/21 Easter 3	10.00 am.	St. Giles	Holy Communion
	10.00 am.	St. Matthew's	Holy Communion
25/04/21 Easter 4	10.00 am.	St. Giles	Holy Communion
	10.00 am.	St. Matthew's	Holy Communion

Church Services

This Easter it was good to be able to worship in our churches once again following the latest Covid-19 lockdown. During the lockdown we were able to offer a weekly Communion Service via zoom which had an average attendance of 10-12 people. We were, however, pleased to welcome people back into church for our Easter services, and we hope to be able to remain open for our usual Sunday services as listed above. Following current government regulations, however, means that our numbers are restricted to allow for social distancing, (20 for St. Matthew's and 30 for St. Giles). Face coverings must be worn, hand sanitiser has to be used and people are required to scan the QR code or sign in for track and trace. The singing of hymns is still not allowed, and communion is

received in one kind only. The situation, however, remains quite fluid and things may change in the near future. It remains everyone's responsibility to look to their own safety and to the safety of others.

Why Easter will never go away.

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man *did* rise?

At the end of St Luke's gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: 'You crucified Jesus, but God raised Him up!'

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course, each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So, did they pretend they had seen Him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, but we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds? That He recovered in the tomb, and then escaped? That the disciples nursed Him back to health? But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus all along, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: 'He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me," and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.'

Parish Pump

Update from Fr Georges and Eveline

Dear Reverend Canon Helen

Dear Fr Michael.

All our friends at St Giles church Killamarsh.

All our friends at St Matthew's church Renishaw.

This is an update news from our work in the church ,and from our farming projects .

First of all, the Corona virus continues to attack seriously our country .We are in the second wave of the Covid 19...But unfortunately one new variant from South Africa also arrived and spread out all over Madagascar .Consequently, we are afraid of the quick attacks of those double enemies. Nowadays, we have 250 new positive cases a day and 20 cases of death...The schools are closed again for a month. The churches are not closed yet but must follow lot of restriction ...Many people think that we will need to enter in a new Lockdown...but our economy is too feeble to support this solution. Our country has not used yet any vaccine. Here ,my family is still safe and is very well.

We have celebrated the Palm Sunday (photos 2-3-4-5) with much pleasure.

We have continued to plant more trees (photos 6-7-8-9-).We involve our parishioners in creating some woodland that would benefit the ecology of our local area.

We start to sell some of the pigs for getting more pork (photos 10, 11, 12) to earn money and to feed Our friends.

Please,have a look at the attachment.

We always remember you all in our daily prayers .Please , would you do so for our country and for our difficult daily life. Thank you very much indeed.

Warmest Regards.

Fr Georges and Eveline.

All the Congregation Antananarivo MADAGASCAR.



Father Georges in Madagascar- Urgent Coronavirus Appeal

When I needed a neighbour were you there?

Whilst it was an absolute delight to share Father Georges latest e-mail regarding the joyous Palm Sunday celebrations, the tree planting and the communal meal my heart sank when I read Father Georges explaining the plight of his people regarding the Coronavirus and the new variant from South Africa.

We thankfully are beginning to emerge from our third lockdown due mainly to the vaccines available, easy access to masks and hand sanitisers and of course social distancing. Many people have undergone intensive treatment over a period of time within our NHS hospitals, some successfully but for many the struggle for life has been too great. Up to 8th April the death toll for the United Kingdom has reached a staggering **126,980** lives lost within 28 days of a Covid diagnosis. Many people continue to suffer the effects of long term Covid. This insidious global disease will be with us for some considerable time.

What provision is there for Father Georges congregations to protect themselves against the Coronavirus?

Whilst the people for whom Father Georges serves are spiritually rich they are financially poor therefore are unable to buy masks for their own protection as food is their everyday priority. I personally feel for their vulnerability at this very dangerous time. Father Georges says that the hospitals are completely full, there is a lack of oxygen and vaccine has not arrived yet. What a plight!!!

Our collective aim is to financially help and support Father Georges in order that his people are equipped with

- Face masks
- A good supply of hand sanitisers
- Soap
- Any other necessary requirements that are needed

At St Matthew's and St Giles there will be a bucket specifically for any personal donations. Could any cheques be paid to Mrs H Guest as a special international transaction has been set up for money to be with Father Georges within 2-3 days.

A Prayer for Father Georges

Heavenly Lord

As each one of us continues to witness the daily devastating toll of the Coronavirus locally, nationally and globally we earnestly pray for all who live in Madagascar. We are connected with Father Georges and his worshipping communities through our mutual faith in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. We seek to help our brothers and sisters in Christ by raising awareness of their current situation and to raise funds on their behalf in order for essential goods to be purchased. Heavenly Lord we ask your blessing upon this crucial appeal. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Revd Helen

Killamarsh Conservation Group Thursday 8th April

Members of the group Sandra and Andy, Alex and Ben, Jill, Hazel, Stephen and Eva worked incredibly hard to fill a skip with wooden debris, leaves, shrubs, branches and brambles from St Giles Churchyard. A grant had been received from Killamarsh Parish Council and H.R. Skip Hire Company at Halfway gave the Group a special price.

We would like to thank all the members of the Killamarsh Conservation Group for their continuing hard work and dedication to ensure that the churchyard looks lovely in anticipation of those people visiting the churchyard in remembrance of a loved one.

Revd Helen
Rector

Spring is definitely in the air

The outdoor plant troughs at St Matthew's will be having a makeover thanks to a donation from R.Godley.

St Giles Church Hall Community Garden

Thanks to a grant from County Councillor Diane Charles from her Members' Community Leadership Scheme we have been able to purchase a unique sycamore bench from Bolsover Woodland Enterprise which is a social enterprise group. The bench should hopefully be installed in May.

St Giles Church of England Primary School

On Thursday 1st April the school said goodbye to Mrs Elaine Fetcher who had worked at the school for 20 years. St Giles P.C.C. offered a donation towards her leaving gift. We wish Elaine every happiness with the next chapter of her life.

Julie and Christine Tilbrook

These two ladies continue to work incredibly hard on behalf of St Giles Church. Their desire to raise funds has meant that their efforts to source material, make masks and then to sell them has meant that another £250-00 was presented by Julie and Christine to me on the 29th March. The running total banked now stands at a staggering **£2250-00** since the first lockdown. Well done and thank you to Julie and Christine.

All great and good things eventually come to an end . Julie and Christine are now winding down the mask making initiative and they will finish in May.

The Deanery 'In-between' newsletter

A copy of the Deanery "In-between" newsletter can now be accessed on our website which is www.St.Giles-Killamarsh.org

Oasis

An Easter Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We remember this Easter Season that You gave your only Son to die for us,

bringing victory over death through his crucifixion and resurrection.

Help us, Lord God, to rediscover in our relationship with Jesus Christ,

that we are no longer separated from You,

but drawn up into your saving love.

Through your grace, strengthen and enable us in prayer and action,

to bring others to an awareness of this living hope and reality.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Amen



Easyfundraising

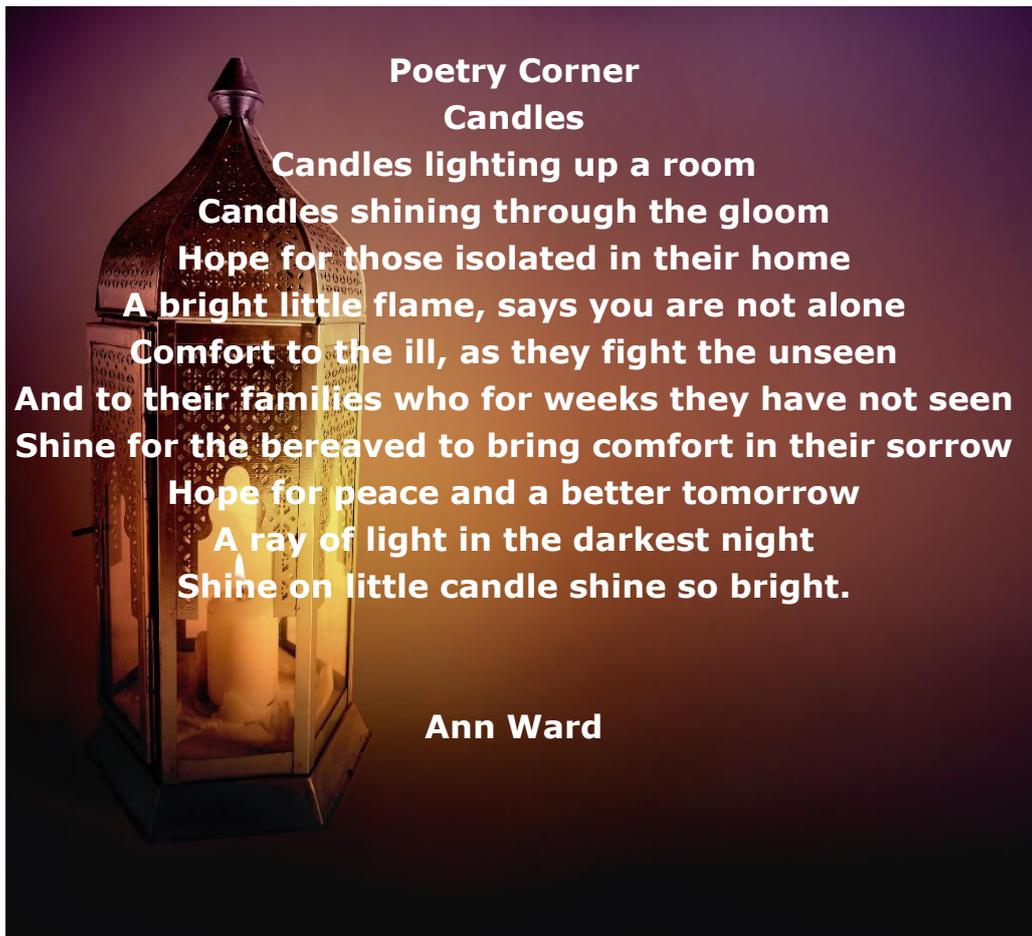
Thank you to all our supporters for raising FREE donations for St Giles Church Killamarsh in 2020 and 2021 by shopping online via easyfundraising. The funds that have been raised have made such a difference to us during these challenging times. If you're not supporting us on easyfundraising yet, please sign up here:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stgkillamarsh/>

We are hoping during April to exceed the milestone of £1000 raised for St Giles. The current total raised is £997.10 and we currently have 26 supporters. If you already use easyfundraising please tell your friends and family about this free way of supporting their local church.

Raise FREE funds
for us every time you **shop online**
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Logos for partner retailers: ebay, M&S, Argos, Uswitch, Booking.com, ASOS, JUST EAT, Currys, PCWorld, BT, Groupon.



This past year may have altered your perspective on life. Some of the following statements may be worth thinking about....

- Life is precarious.
- A nurse is worth more than a professional footballer.
- Spare time isn't a waste of time.
- A smile is precious.
- Being alone isn't the same as loneliness.
- Hard work doesn't guarantee employment.
- I'm spending more on food & drink and less on church & charity.
- Silence opens us to creative ideas.
- Social media are a mixed blessing.
- Shopping needn't be addictive.
- Driving less and walking more is good for humanity.
- Isolation teaches us we need each other to generate energy.
- Getting back to 'normal' isn't God's plan for the human race.
- When everything else is shut, God is open.

Parish Pump

St. George, our Patron Saint who isn't English

The English have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who, just possibly, may not have existed at all. But that didn't stop St George being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.



It's most likely that St George was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that St George was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the Middle Ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers – 'Onward, Christian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' – one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the

inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause.

Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty – they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our admiration. *Parish Pump*

Prince Philip

Whilst producing this newsletter The Queen announced the sad news that her husband, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, had died peacefully at Windsor Castle that morning (9th April 2021) . Our thoughts and prayers are with Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family. There is to be a special service of Holy Communion at both churches on Sunday 11th April 2021 at 10am.



Photo-Press Association

Sunday 11th April is designated as Parkinson's Day. It is designated as such to raise awareness of this incurable neurological disease.

Parkinson's disease is **caused by a loss of nerve cells in part of the brain called the substantia nigra.** This leads to **a reduction in a chemical** called dopamine in the brain. Dopamine plays a vital role in regulating the movement of the body. A reduction in dopamine is responsible for many of the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's disease symptoms may vary from person to person. Early signs may be mild and may go unnoticed. Symptoms often begin on one side of the body and usually get worse on the same side, even after symptoms begin to affect both sides.

Signs and symptoms may include:

- Tremors, trembling of hands, arms, legs, jaw and face
- Stiffness of the arms, legs and trunk
- Slowness of movement
- Poor balance and coordination
- Speech difficulty and difficulty swallowing

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