

## June Newsletter 2021

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

#### June Sunday Services

Date	Time	Church	Service
06/06/21 Trinity 1	10.00 am	St. Giles	Holy Communion
	10.00 am.	St. Matthew's	Holy Communion
13/06/21 Trinity 2	10.00 am.	St. Giles	Holy Communion
	10.00 am.	St. Matthew's	Holy Communion
20/06/21 Trinity 3	10.00 am.	St. Giles	Holy Communion
	10.00 am.	St. Matthew's	Holy Communion
27/06/21 Trinity 4	10.00 am.	St. Giles	Holy Communion
	10.00 am.	St. Matthew's	Holy Communion
04/07/21 Trinity 5	10.00 am.	St. Giles	Holy Communion
	10.00 am.	St. Matthew's	Holy Communion

#### Generosity of heart and mind

As we have celebrated Ascension Day ( 13<sup>th</sup> May) when we remember the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven and then the glorious release of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (23<sup>rd</sup> May) which empowered then and empowers now all who are faithful to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

we also have celebrated Trinity Sunday ( 30<sup>th</sup> May) with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. These important Principal Feast days help to put our lives into a Christian context within the rhythmic cycle of our earthly life. Every single one of us is within God's almighty plan for the whole of humankind. Our lives are unique and God's call upon our lives is also unique. Just savour these deeply profound words

*You did not choose me but I chose you. John 15 :16*

I invite you to really let these words be absorbed deep into your soul. How you respond to these words will affect how you view your service to almighty God.

*'We brought nothing into the world, and we take nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.'*

*1 Timothy 6.7; Job1.21b*

None of us will ever know when that very slender thread which separates our life from death will be broken. We will not know the time, the place, the event or the circumstance. The only certainty of life is death. Christians however believe that there is life after death, life in all its fullness with almighty God. He alone is our judge as we walk this transient life. So, my question is to us all what is our part in God's mission ? Indeed are we actively being part of God's plan?

Prayer is truly a wonderful gift connecting us instantly to Almighty God. Through prayer we can hold before almighty God the needs of the world- famine, war, the devastating, ongoing effects of the Coronavirus, the fight against climate change, poverty, cruelty.....

Through prayer our connectedness with God makes us more aware concerning how we see the world and our personal and collective response to it. As Christians we follow the teachings of Jesus Christ who stood up for and championed the vulnerable, the weak, the voiceless and the marginalised.

If we can make a positive difference to one life or one situation either locally, nationally or internationally then we are fulfilling our Christian duty. We can all be positive change makers ! And how awesome is that!

Revd. Helen.

## NEWS

### Pentecost Photographs



St. Giles decorated for Pentecost.  
The cakes, flowers and decorations  
provided by Margaret and John Hall

Photographs  
John and Margaret Hall



## **Behind the Masks!**

Have you seen the article in the Doorsteppa magazine May 21 edition entitled Behind the Masks written by Mr John Hall? This article has also featured in the Our Diocese May publication. I met with Christine and Julie Tilbrook on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May to receive another £250-00 which they have generated producing and selling masks. The new total now stands at **£2,500-00!!!!** This is a truly amazing achievement and words simply cannot express our gratitude and thanks to Christine and Julie for their continued hard work in support of fundraising for St Giles Church.

## **Father Georges Coronavirus Appeal**

We receive constant updates from Father Georges. Deeply concerned by the plight of Father Georges and his congregations in Madagascar when the Coronavirus struck and at that time they had little if any access to face masks, hand sanitisers or soap we set about fundraising for him. I e-mailed Carol and Richard Wells who attend Killamarsh Methodist Church to see whether or not the congregation there would like to be part of Father Georges Coronavirus Appeal.

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May I received a very generous donation of £300-00 from Carol and Richard Wells on behalf of Killamarsh Methodist Church. This donation has now been received and acknowledged by Father Georges.

A huge thank you to all at Killamarsh Methodist Church who have offered a donation. Your generosity and kindness are very much appreciated.

We continually hold Father Georges, Eveline and their congregations in our prayers for their continued health and well-being whilst in the midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

## **St Giles Church of England Primary School**

I would like you to pray for our seven Foundation Governors, our two Staff Governors, our one Parent Governor and Mr Loader who is the headteacher. Collectively they form the Full Governing Body. Each person brings their own particular skills set and expertise not only to the designated meetings but also when reporting back following a specific school visit. Each person offers valuable contributions through their professionalism and continued commitment to the school.

## **Annual Parochial Church Meetings**

Yes folks it's that time of the year again when we look forward to these very important meetings.

St Matthew's, Renishaw will be held on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 1pm** in the church.

St Giles, Killamarsh will be held on **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 11.15am** in church.

At each church the yearly election of churchwardens will occur (This is the Annual Vestry Meeting). This will be followed by the APCM where specific reports are offered. Even though we have experienced lockdowns the life of the church has still occurred via zoom, newsletters, telephone calls as well as the re-opening of our church buildings for communal worship from 1<sup>st</sup> April (Maundy Thursday).

Your attendance at your designated parish church will be very much appreciated. Thank you.

## LITTER



Litter has long been a problem in our two villages, of Killamarsh and Renishaw, and it is the result of the poor attitude of some people with regard to respecting the community where they live. Some people seem to have a *“Why should I bother, someone else will pick it up”* sort of attitude towards dropping litter. The fact that littering and fly-tipping is against the law does not seem to act as a deterrent, nor does the fact that by leaving litter scattered about they are marring God’s beautiful creation. We can only appeal to those who are responsible to think about others before they throw their rubbish on the floor. Fortunately, in Killamarsh, a group of public-spirited people known as the *“Killamarsh Wombles”* have been addressing the situation in that area, whilst in Renishaw teams of litter pickers have been out and about doing their best to keep the streets tidy. It is however a problem we can all do something about. The Killamarsh Wombles write:-

### **The Killamarsh Wombles**

You may be aware that The Killamarsh Wombles have been busy tidying up our village since February 2021 and have managed to clear years’ worth of litter and fly tipping from walking routes, roads, and streets. Thousands of bags full of detritus have been filled over the past few months and then collected by NEDDC. Team Leader (Boss-E) Mary-Ann Ritchie, a local resident, who decided to do something about the litter once and for all established the wonderful team of volunteer litter pickers who have given their time, effort and even suffered minor scrapes and

bruises along the way! Some of the trails have been a challenge as have the busy roadsides where there is not a kerb. However, determination and dedication has resulted in a much tidier, cleaner, and greener Killamarsh for everyone to enjoy and it is such a joy to see wildlife thrive in litter free surroundings. The local community has been wonderful in their support and The Wombles regularly maintain the village as much as possible but urge other residents to play their part where they can – even if it is just to clear litter from their own frontages.



## **St. Peter and St. Paul**

***The two most famous apostles are remembered this month, for they share a feast day 29<sup>th</sup> June.***

### **St Peter, ‘the Rock’**

St Peter (d. c. 64AD), originally called Simon, was a married fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee. He met Jesus through his brother, Andrew. Jesus gave him the name of Cephas (Peter) which means rock. Peter is always named first in the list of apostles. He was one of the three apostles who were privileged to witness the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the Agony in the Garden.

When Peter made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus recognised it as being the result of a revelation from the Father. He in turn told Peter that he would be the rock on which His Church would be built, that the ‘gates of hell’ would never prevail against it. Peter and the apostles would have the power of ‘binding and loosing’, but Peter would be personally given ‘the keys of the kingdom of heaven’. Jesus also forewarned Peter of his betrayal and subsequent strengthening of the other apostles. After His Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Peter before the other apostles, and later entrusted him with the mission to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ’s flock.

Peter played a big part in the early Church, and he is mentioned many times in the Book of Acts, where in the early chapters he organised the choice of Judas' successor, preached with stirring authority at Pentecost; and was the very first apostle to work a miracle. Peter went on to defend the apostles' right to teach at the Sanhedrin, and to condemn Ananias and Sapphira. It was Peter who first realised that Christianity was also for the Gentiles, after his meeting with Cornelius. Later he took a prominent part in the council at Jerusalem and went on to clash with St Paul at Antioch for hesitating about eating with Gentiles.

Early tradition links Peter with an apostolate and martyrdom at Rome. The New Testament does not tell us either way, but Peter being in Rome would make sense, especially as Peter's first epistle refers to 'Babylon', which was usually identified with Rome. Peter's presence in Rome is mentioned by early church fathers such as Clement of Rome and Irenaeus. Tradition also tells us that Peter suffered under Nero and was crucified head-downwards. There is no conclusive proof either way that St Peter's relics are at the Vatican, but it is significant that Rome is the only city that ever claimed to be Peter's place of death.

St Peter was a major influence on Mark when writing his gospel, and the First Epistle of Peter was very probably his. (Many scholars believe that the Second Epistle was written at a later date.)

From very early times Peter was invoked by Christians as a universal saint. He was the heavenly door-keeper, the patron of the Church and the papacy, a saint both powerful and accessible.

In England there were important dedications to Peter from early times: monasteries such as Canterbury, Glastonbury, Malmesbury, Peterborough, Lindisfarne, Whitby, Wearmouth, and especially Westminster. Cathedrals were named after him, too: York, Lichfield, Worcester and Selby. In all, it has been calculated that 1,129 pre-Reformation churches were dedicated to St Peter, and another 283 to SS Peter and Paul together.

Images of Peter are innumerable, but his portraiture remains curiously the same: a man with a square face, a bald or tonsured head, and a short square, curly beard. Not surprisingly, his chief emblem is a set of keys, sometimes along with a ship or fish. *Parish Pump*

## **St Paul, apostle to the Gentiles**

Like Peter, Paul (d. c. 65) also started life with another name: Saul. This great apostle to the Gentiles was a Jew born in Tarsus and brought up by Gamaliel as a Pharisee. So keen was he to defend the god of his fathers that he became a persecutor of Christianity, and even took part in the stoning of Stephen. He hunted Christians down and imprisoned them, and it was while on his way to persecute more Christians in Damascus that he was suddenly given his vision of Christ.

It was the decisive moment of Paul's life – Paul suddenly realised that Jesus was truly the Messiah, and the Son of God, and that He was calling Paul to bring the Christian faith to the Gentiles. Paul was then healed of his temporary blindness, baptised, and retired to Arabia for about three years of prayer and solitude, before returning to Damascus.

From then on Paul seems to have lived a life full of hazard and hardship. He made many Jewish enemies, who stoned him, and wanted to kill him. Nevertheless, Paul made three great missionary journeys, first to Cyprus, then to Asia Minor and eastern Greece, and lastly to Ephesus, where he wrote 1 Corinthians, then to Macedonia and Achaia, where he wrote Romans, before returning to Jerusalem.

After stonings, beatings and imprisonment in Jerusalem he was sent to Rome for trial as a Roman citizen. On the way he was shipwrecked at Malta; when he finally reached Rome he was put under house-arrest for two years, during which time he wrote the four 'captivity' epistles. Later Paul may have revisited Ephesus and even have reached Spain. Tradition tells he was eventually martyred at Rome during the persecution of Nero, being beheaded (as a Roman citizen) at Tre Fontane and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands.

The belief that Peter and Paul died on the same day was caused by their sharing the same feast day.

Paul was not only a tireless missionary, but a great thinker. His epistles played a major part in the later development of Christian theology. Paul's key ideas include that Redemption is only through faith in Christ, who abrogated the old Law and began the era of the Spirit; that Christ is not just the Messiah, but the eternal, pre-existent Son of God, exalted after the Resurrection to God's right-hand; that the Church is the (mystical) body of Christ; that the believers live in Christ and will eventually be transformed by the final resurrection.

It is difficult to overemphasise the influence of Paul on Christian thought and history: he had a major effect on Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Luther, Calvin and others. In art, Paul is depicted as small in stature, bald and bandy-legged, with a long face, long nose and eyebrows meeting over deep-set eyes. His usual emblems are a sword and a book. In England he was never as popular as St Peter, and ancient English churches dedicated to him alone number only 43.

The history of the relics of Peter and Paul is not very clear. Tradition says that Peter was buried at the Vatican and Paul on the Ostian Way under his basilica. Certainly, both apostles were venerated from very early times both in the Liturgy and in private prayers, as testified by Greek and Latin graffiti in the catacombs of the early 3rd century. *Parish Pump*

## Oasis

### Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost in the Christian liturgical calendar and falls on 30th May this year. It celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three persons of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The doctrine holds that God is one God, but three coeternal and consubstantial persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit. The three persons are distinct, yet are one “substance, essence or nature”.

### Prayer

Holy Trinity, one God,  
from you, by you and in you are all things.  
Help us in stillness and quietness  
to contemplate Your mystery and glory.  
Through Your grace may we know  
that we have been chosen by the Father,  
are loved by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and daily strengthened and guided by the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

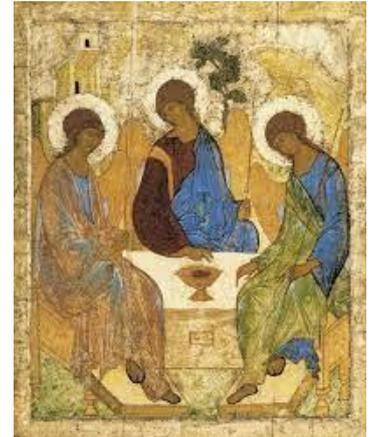
**Amen**

### POETRY CORNER

#### Charity

Charity or love what's in a name?  
The King James Bible translates them the same.  
Corinthians 13 tells the great theme  
Of love everlasting, everyone's dream.

Loved by all brides on their wedding day  
The verses they all want the preacher to pray  
The wonders of love that overrules all,  
That holds on believing whatever befalls.



Icon of the Holy Trinity

Andrei Rublev, 15<sup>th</sup>  
century

Love always trusting always prevails  
 Enduring, protecting, love never fails.  
 Faith hope and charity, virtues all three  
 But love is the greatest and ever will be.  
*By Megan Carter*

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