

St Helen's Magazine

June 2023

50p



St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch



Loving God, loving others, loving the world

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Thank you to Peter Rose for this month's cover photograph

Editor Writes ...

When a school bus got stuck under a bridge in Ashby recently it made the national news: And the journalist covering for the BBC was none other than Caroline Lowbridge. It set me thinking about aptonyms, which is when a name matches the occupation or character of its owner, often in a humorous or ironic way. There are plenty of fictional examples, such as John Bunyan's characters Mr Talkative and Mr Worldy Wiseman, or Shakespeare's Mistress Quickly and Sir Toby Belch. There are real life examples too – how about the fastest man on the planet being called Usain Bolt?!



We have the well-known chef Tom Kitchin, the high court judge Igor Judge, now Lord Judge, or weather presenter Sara Blizzard, all seeming to prove there might be something in the theory of Nominative Determinism, which says that aptonyms are not merely happy (or unhappy) coincidences, but can inspire people to gravitate towards areas of work that fit their names.

So what do the surnames of this month's contributors tell us? I know we are all very pleased indeed that Sue Field didn't take up a vocation in farming. There are photos of her induction service on page 25, and her first letter is over the page.

The surname Vaughan is derived from the Welsh words *vychan*, which means small or little, and Martin Vaughan has a very interesting little something to say about the big issue of equality on page 13. Wendy Freer's Ashby history article on page 20 was e-mailed in to us from her holiday in Greece – so she's freer than many of us are just now, but Alan Cross isn't living up to his name with his gardening tips on page 6, where his love of his garden, and his joy in even its chores, shines through - he suggests we should all ho(e), ho(e), ho(e)!

Alan's name could be described as an inapronym, and well-known examples include Lance Armstrong, who was known for his leg strength, or Frank Beard, the only member of the pop group ZZ Top who didn't have a beard. And surely Caroline Lowbridge was really destined to become an engineer, and ended up a journalist by mistake. Maybe, as I am neither a chap nor a man my name is an inapronym too, but Emily Darlington is very much my darling as she has volunteered to be my successor as magazine editor. Next month we will edit together, and then it's over to her.

Jill Chapman 



Revd Sue Field Writes ...

Dear Friends,

I want to begin by thanking you all for your very warm and kind welcome to the Flagstaff family of churches, both at the welcoming service but also subsequently. Thank you too for your patience and understanding as I get to know you and as I ask lots of questions. That will be ongoing for a while as there is a lot to take on board!

I am really enjoying being here and living in Ashby, and love being able to walk so easily to Market Street and the shops. I look forward very much to getting to know those in the town and the villages, and those in schools, workplaces and other places where communities gather.

I preached at St Helen's on Pentecost Sunday and a couple of you asked whether my sermon could be published in the magazine. I think it would be a bit lengthy for that but I thought I would try to summarise what I said in my opening letter as I think it might be pertinent to this new phase of life and ministry together.

Some years ago, I was part of an annual vocations weekend at St John's College, Nottingham, and this event always ended with a session led by a senior layperson in the Church of England. She was a theologian who, as well as being involved in the structures of the Church, was also called upon to lecture across the world. Every time she received an invitation to lecture or to fulfil a role in the Church, she heard a voice in her head saying, 'But you're only a bricklayer's daughter'. She invited those attending the weekend to identify what the 'But I'm only' voices were for them and to write them down. At the end of the morning there was a huge bonfire in which these pieces of paper were burned.

Over recent weeks we have been following the disciples as they have witnessed the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus and as they were then filled with the Spirit at Pentecost. As I read the account from the Acts of the Apostles of Pentecost, I am always struck by Peter. Peter, as you know, was the disciple who often questioned Jesus and was rebuked by him, yet despite that, he was the one upon whom Jesus said he would build his Church. We see Peter go on to deny Jesus twice and, when he realizes that he has done what Jesus predicted, he breaks down in tears. And yet, it is this same Peter who gets up after the dramatic events of Pentecost and speaks boldly, bravely interpreting what had happened to those who might have been quick to condemn or to make fun of the disciples.

If anyone had any 'But I'm only' moments, it would surely have been Peter, but in him we see the power of the Spirit at work, transforming him from what might be seen in human terms as weak, to someone who has been empowered and equipped to fulfil the call of Jesus on his life.

We can all experience that kind of imposter syndrome where we feel that we are the wrong person to be doing things and yet, in the power of the Spirit, God can call us to ministries that we could never have imagined and give us gifts that we have never explored – and this can happen at any age.

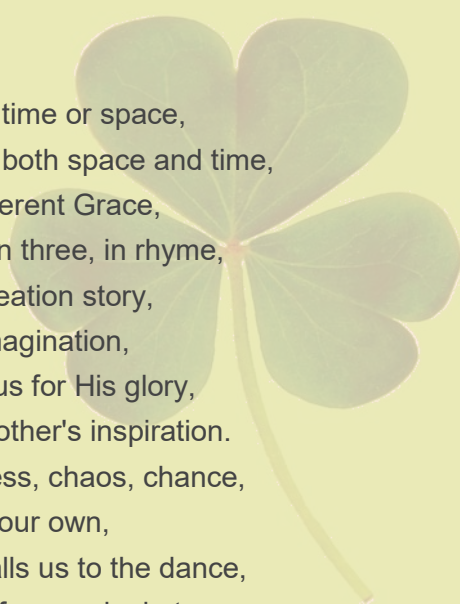
I invite you to join me in noticing those 'but I'm only' voices that we all have and to ask God to free us from the power they have on us so that we may move forward in the power of the Spirit to serve him fully and freely together.

With my prayers and best wishes

Sue

Trinity Sunday

By Malcolm Guite



In the Beginning, not in time or space,
But in the quick before both space and time,
In Life, in Love, in co-inherent Grace,
In three in one and one in three, in rhyme,
In music, in the whole creation story,
In His own image, His imagination,
The Triune Poet makes us for His glory,
And makes us each the other's inspiration.
He calls us out of darkness, chaos, chance,
To improvise a music of our own,
To sing the chord that calls us to the dance,
Three notes resounding from a single tone,
To sing the End in whom we all begin;
Our God beyond, beside us and within

June Gardening Tips

The longest day of the year is in June and the extra warmth and light encourages plants to put on a wonderful burst of growth. However, this extra light and warmth also means weeds will sprout up from nowhere. Therefore, keep on top of them by regularly hoeing them, especially in dry conditions.

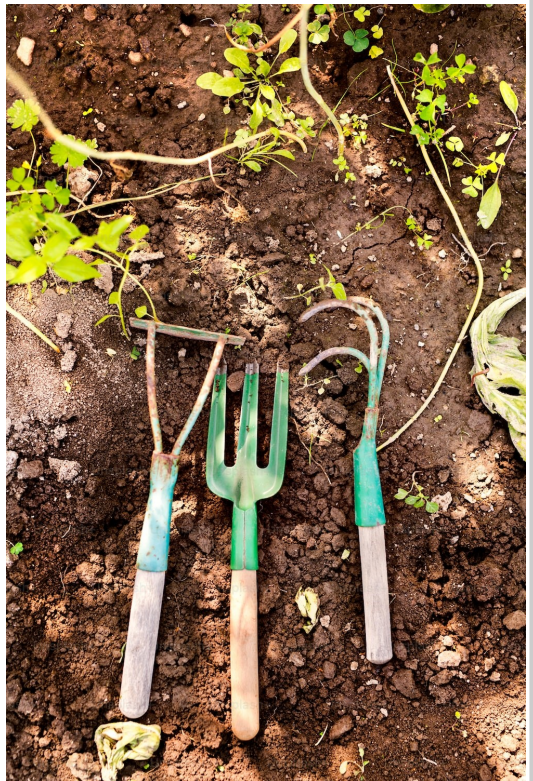
We have had a very warm end to May after a great deal of rain earlier, and luckily, we have not had a late frost (to date). This means that you can plant out bedding and seed-raised plants but remember to keep them moist during dry weather.

In the vegetable garden, continue to earth up potatoes but keep the compost of container potatoes moist. Also take care not to overwater as this compacts the soil, squeezing out the oxygen and thus preventing the development of the tubers.

Sow seeds of herbs now, including Coriander, Dill, Parsley, Chives and Basil. We recently managed to buy Samphire but remember it needs watered with a 5% salt solution. Also, don't forget to bring the tender herbs back inside later in the year if you want a continued supply.

Pinch side shoots from your tomatoes and remember to start feeding them once the first truss is setting fruit. If you are growing strawberries then peg down the runners once your crop is nearing the end if you wish to create new plants for next year. Always water potted Blueberry plants with rain water rather than tap water as the lime content of tap water reduces the acidity of the soil over time.

This is a safe time to prune shrubs which have already flowered such as Spiraea, Choisya, Camelia, Deutzia and Philadelphus. Take out unwanted branches and reduce the leading shoots to make the shrub bushier. I also prune the bottom of the shrub to lift the canopy which allows more light,



and air in and this benefits any plants growing around the base of the shrub.

Keep an eye out for vine weevil as the larvae feed on plant roots particularly those kept in pots. Remove the adults (a black scaly beetle) from leaves immediately. Also look out for woolly aphids on Lupins and fruit trees. They should be removed with a soapy water spray. Consider introducing a variety of plants into your garden to attract beneficial insects and wildlife to help develop a balance between pests and predators.

As the weather becomes warmer pond weed can quickly get out of control if left alone. The warmer temperatures will make fish more active and so now is the time to start feeding them daily,

Lastly, Alison and I are opening our garden to visitors as part of the Ashby Open Garden Scheme on Saturday the 1st of July and Sunday the 2nd of July from 11am to 6pm. You can also enjoy refreshments including cakes and biscuits. We have lots of seating outside (some undercover) which you can take advantage of. We would love to see you all. Children are welcome as we have games and fun areas for them to enjoy.

Alan Cross

THE HYMNS

HOW THEY ARE CHOSEN EVERY WEEK



MEANWHILE

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Pop in and see us at

1 Bath Street Corner, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 2FH

Sew It Don't Throw It - Workshops & Talks

If you are a Sewing Bee fan you already know it's back on TV. But did you know we have a 'sewing bee' in St Helen's?

Well, that's to say we have the whirring of sewing machines and the snipping of shears, as both complete beginners and sewing improvers learn how to make or to repair, how to resize or repurpose, or how to create something brand new from recycled fabrics at our Sew It Don't Throw It workshops. This happy mix of the creative with the practical is proving to be good fun too – very much like the Sewing Bee but without all that stressful competing!

And, from next month, we will be adding in amazing speakers to our programme, including the Sewing Bee's inspiring one armed sewist (see the What's On noticeboard over the page) and later in the year we're planning a fashion show too!

What a joy it is to see new-to-St-Helen's people crossing our threshold, appreciating our buildings, enjoying spending time with us, and becoming friends.



Jill Chapman



The
**What's
On**
Notice board

at Helen's Church & Heritage Centre

Sew It Don't Throw It



Making with Waste A Conversation

Join Di Kendall and Alice Burnhope for this talk about clothing & sustainability and the use of pre-loved textiles and natural dyes.

Alice Burnhope is an award-winning textile artist and artist educator, and this will be a fascinating afternoon as we hear about her creative practice and learn of her journey through the creative arts and through craft techniques as she became a socially-engaged artist using natural dyes and waste materials.

Di Kendall is based in mid-Derbyshire and has been sewing and dressmaking for over 50 years as well as teaching about textiles.

As a bonus treat, Alice will be facilitating an exciting demonstration on the pH sensitivity of natural dyes.

Saturday 1st July

2pm-4pm,
including Q&A

£5 admission

including light refreshments

To book: <https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/335533/>



4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE65 1AA

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St Helen's Church & Heritage Centre

Sew It Don't Throw It



"How learning to sew helped me transform my life"

Gill Thomas will share her sewing journey, why and how she learnt to sew, taking part in the Great British Sewing Bee, and how learning to sew helped her face her biggest fears and transform her life.

Tuesday 11th July

7pm

- doors open 6.45 -

£5 admission

including light refreshments



To book: https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/335533/Whats_coming_up.aspx

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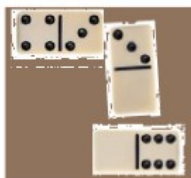
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St Helen's Church & Community Heritage Centre

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4pm

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'children's
corner'



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Thy Kingdom Come, on Earth?

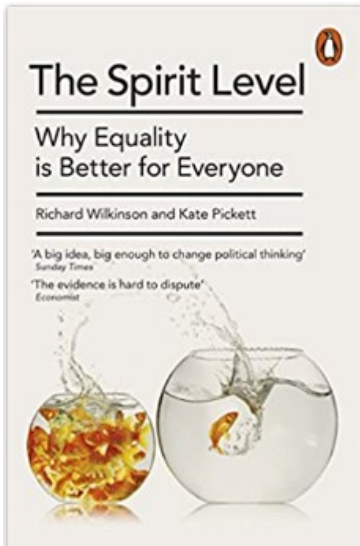
Suppose that someone told you that there was a single way in which you could improve the mental health of the nation, reduce drug abuse, lessen the epidemic of obesity and its related diseases, lower the number of unwanted teenage pregnancies, reduce the number of people going to prison, lower the rates of violent crime, increase everyone's life expectancy and lower the number of single parents.

Doesn't that sound like something worth doing? Doesn't that sound as though God's kingdom on earth might be brought a little closer? When we all pray - for God's Kingdom to come - on earth as it is in heaven, then are we all waiting for the clouds to part and Jesus to come and sort it for us - or are we expected to work towards making it happen?

As the clouds haven't parted in the last two thousand years, I'm a firm believer in the latter option, otherwise we could be waiting a long time yet.

So what is this wonderful thing that has all these benefits? I have just finished a book called "The Spirit Level" by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett. They provide both confirmation of, and also a rationale for, the facts we learnt as doctors about deprivation and its effects on your health. They very carefully compared international statistics for all the factors I mentioned in the first paragraph. They have been able to show without doubt that the more unequal a society is, the worse are all these social ills. The more equal a society, the better are all these factors.

You can make societies more equal by altering the tax systems, so that those with more wealth pay more tax, but we have to change the narratives around this. The tabloid press might scream about scroungers getting more money from "hard working families", but maybe most working families wouldn't have to pay more tax and they might live longer, be healthier, and be less in fear of crime and not being able to get an appointment when they need to be seen at the GP surgery or the hospital.



If you ignore tabloid headlines about "going soft on crime" and have more equality then you don't have to spend so much taxpayers money locking people up and so many police for chasing violent criminals and drug addicts.

So great can be the benefits of a more equal society that the amount saved, compared to paying to counter all the social ills I have listed, that you don't necessarily need to have high tax

rates.

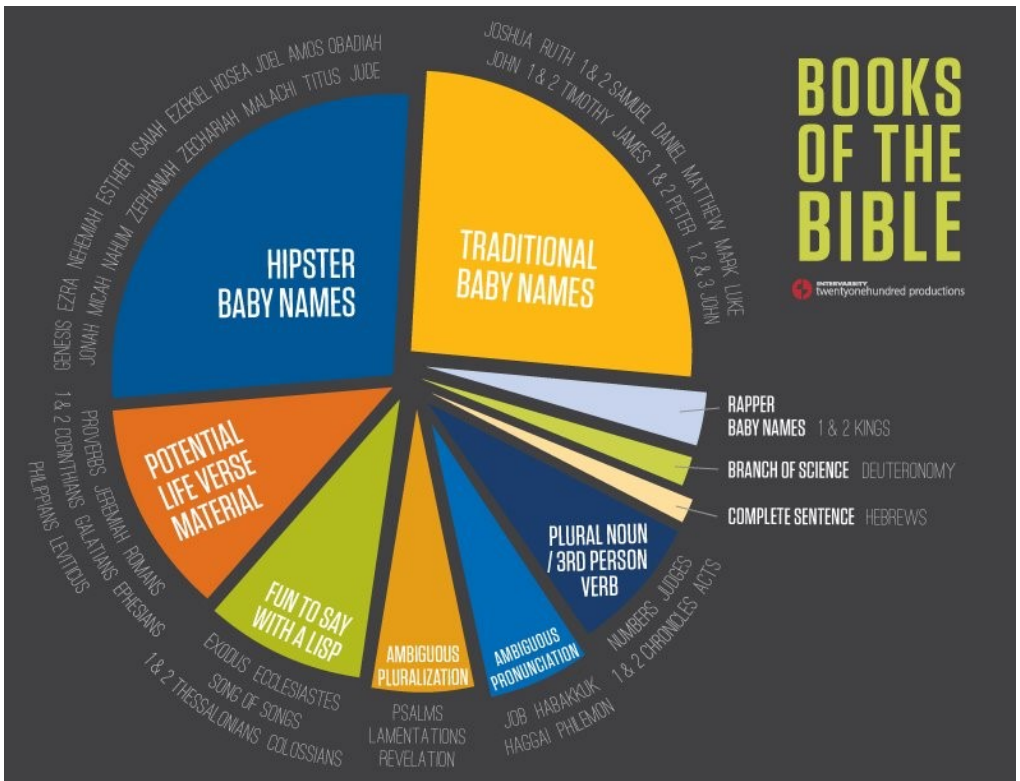
But from a grossly unequal base like we have in the UK, you have to start somewhere - and a more just tax system is quite a good place. The measures Liz Truss tried to introduce were almost the exact opposite of what would move a society towards more equality.

Over the next twelve months we are going to be bombarded by politicians all wanting our vote at the next election. Maybe we need to do some homework about what tax policies would be more likely to bring God's kingdom on earth a little nearer and then grill all the potential candidates as to what their party plans to do.

I can't recommend "The Spirit Level" highly enough. The first half is a bit dry with lots of evidence from international comparisons, but it sets the academic basis for their fascinating discussions about possible ways to foster equality later in the book. It is the antidote to the political ideology that what we all want and need is lower taxes. It can be ordered from World of Books for less than £4 and might change your thinking for ever and ever !!

Amen !

Martin Vaughan



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Our Worship in June

	8.30am	10.30am	pm
1st Sunday 4 th June			3.30pm All-Age Worship 6.00pm Evensong
2nd Sunday 11 th June		Holy Communion	12.30pm Baptism
3rd Sunday 18 th June		Word & Worship	
4th Sunday 25 th June		Holy Communion	3.30pm Messy Church in the Community Heritage Centre

Our usual pattern for services:

- **Sundays**
 - First Sunday of the month -
8.30am Holy Communion
3.30pm All-Age
6pm Choral Evensong
 - Second AND Fourth Sundays of the month -
10.30am Holy Communion
 - Third Sunday of the month -
10.30am Service of the Word
 - Fourth Sunday of the month
3.30pm - 5pm Messy Church (alternation between Viscount
Beaumont School and St Helen's Heritage Centre.)
- **Wednesdays - Holy Communion - 10.30am**
 - First Wednesday of the month - BCP Holy Communion - in church
 - Second Wednesday of the month - Holy Communion -
at Prior Park Community Centre
 - Third Wednesday of the month - Service of the Word - in church
 - Fourth Wednesday of the month - Holy Communion - in church
- **Saturdays - Parish Prayers - 9.30am in church (Hastings chapel)**

Regular activities:

Monday mornings, term time

Mondays

First Tuesday of the month

Third Tuesday of the month

Third Tuesday of the month

First Wednesday of the month

Thursdays

Fridays

– Little Fishes 9.30 - 11.30am

– Monday Group - 8pm

– MU meeting 7.30pm - 9pm

– MU meeting 10.30am - 12 noon

– PCC meeting 7 - 9.30pm

– 'We're In Stitches' Knit & natter 2 - 4pm

– Choir practice 6.30-8.30

– Heart-Warming Space 1 - 4pm

June Diary

Tuesday 6th 8.45pm

**Quiet Morning - Prayer mountains
with Revd Margaret & Allan**

Breakfast will be served first & refreshments available throughout. There is no charge other than voluntary contributions.

Tuesday 13th 11am&1.30pm

Sew It Don't Throw It workshops

Tuesday 20th 7pm

PCC

Saturday 24th 1pm

Sew It Don't Throw It workshop

Saturday 27th 11am&1.30pm

Sew It Don't Throw It workshops

Blessing For Those In Distress

May you come safely to shore
across the dark ocean
and know
that even in the darkest depths
there is hope to be found
and peace.

Mary Taylor





JP SPRINGTHORPE & C^o

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Sick of Plastic

This sculpture popped up temporarily in Birmingham recently. It's not a very good photograph I'm afraid, but it shows a washing machine vomiting out a pile of plastic bottles and packaging and is titled Sick of Plastic because, really, laundry plastic is giving a lot of us the ick.

The sculpture was designed by Sarah Turner, an Eco Designer based in Nottingham. (You can see more of Sarah's work at www.sarahturner.co.uk) It was set up in the city centre, in front of Birmingham's library, and was made from 3,229 pieces of laundry plastic. That's the amount of plastic that goes to waste in Birmingham alone each and every day, ending up getting burnt, sent to landfill or shipped overseas. EVERY SINGLE DAY.



Climate change is the biggest single threat of our time. Add in plastic pollution and our planet and population needs help. Household cleaning brands have long been part of the problem. They drown our world in single-use plastic, pollute with production that puts profits over people and batter biodiversity through ingredients that don't biodegrade.

We can't stand by doing nothing and just hoping for the best any longer. And fortunately, increasingly, there are producers out there who are creating cleaning products that are better for the planet, using plant-based, biodegradable ingredients and sustainable packaging.

We don't have a washing machine at St Helen's, so this might not be a sculpture which speaks directly to us and our eco-initiative (although there is a group of volunteers who take home tea towels from the Community Heritage Centre kitchen every week to wash them.) But it is a good indicator of the kind of change in thinking we are undergoing as we make our church an eco-church: The kind of small but important behaviour change that means here at St Helen's we habitually buy Ecover washing up liquid, and reuse the bottle by getting it refilled at Fair2All in Bath Street.

Jill Chapman

Ashby's Lost Railway

One of the most obvious pieces of evidence that Ashby once had a railway is a building on Station Road, which was once the town railway station. It is now used by a private business, but the track is still there and occasional freight trains still come through. Passenger services ceased in the 1960s. This station opened in 1849 and brought the first steam hauled locomotives to Ashby, but we're not going to talk about that in this article, because there was a railway long before that one.

When the Ashby Canal was first planned, the intention was to build a branch from the main canal to the lime yards at Ticknal and the quarries at Cloud Hill near Breedon. However, the terrain was too hilly and would have necessitated a number of locks which were expensive to build and difficult to maintain the water level at the summit. It was decided, instead, to build a horse-drawn railway which was completed in 1802, two years before the canal itself was finished.

The wagons ran on iron plate rails. Unlike modern rails, the flange was on the rail instead of the wheel. The rails rested on stone blocks, secured by a wrought iron spike driven into an oak plug in the stone block. The gauge was 4ft 2in.

The photograph shows a wagon and horse on the Ticknall branch, although it was probably usual for two horses to pull three wagons at a time. At Little Eaton Gangway, a similar tramway in Derbyshire, the rules stated that the wagons were not to exceed two tons gross and the speed was not to exceed walking pace.

The railway began at a place alongside the canal called Willesley Basin, near the former Oakthorpe Colliery and what is now "Thortit Lake". The track ran parallel to Willesley Lane and part of the embankment can still be seen through the hedge.

It then passed under Tamworth Road via a hump-backed bridge and crossed the road again further along, crossing the line of what would later become the main steam railway. It crossed Burton Road on a level crossing and then weaved its way up the Callis and Smisby Road via the Callis Bridge and another level crossing.

The steam railway ran on a line behind the houses in Northfields, but the horse drawn railway crossed Smisby Road a little further up and the remains can still be seen on old OS maps. After that, it entered a tunnel which was 447 yards long and now comes out on private farmland at Old Parks Farm. The tunnel, which passes under the present day bypass, is still there and if you look at the satellite image on Goggle maps the line of trees shows you where the line ran, but the tunnel cannot now be accessed as it is on private land.



On the far side of the tunnel, the track divided into two branches, one running to Ticknall and the other to Cloud Hill. A railway wharf with a weighbridge was built there next to a house known as tunnel house. All of that has long since disappeared.

The end of the horse-drawn railway started to come when the steam railway appeared in 1849. The first section to close was that between Willesley Basin and Tamworth Road when Mr Abny-Hastings of Willesley Hall decided that he wanted his land back in 1850.

Between 1864 and 1874, the Midland Railway Company converted the line from Ashby to Worthington to carry steam trains. They straightened the line of the track, getting rid of the old curves and deviations, one of which was the one carried by the bridge in the Callis, and the track over the bridge became just a siding into the old leather works and later the soap works. They also enlarged the bore of the tunnel to standard gauge dimensions.

All of this left the section between Tunnel House and Ticknall isolated and still horse-drawn. Goods had to be transhipped at Tunnel House from the old-style rails and wagons to the new. The last trip on this section took place in May 1913 and that last part of Ashby's first railway finally closed in 1915. As for the Callis Bridge, that was still in use by steam-hauled goods wagons in the 1950s, but was demolished in 1969. However, some of the masonry was saved and can still be seen on the side of the road in The Callis, near to the entrance to Ash Tree Road.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ our Lord

Having stayed with both my daughters recently, when I returned home, some thoughts came to mind and also this hymn, and with it I thought about our personal foundations.

One visit was to help my daughter & family move home. My thoughts were how much work was involved by family & removal men, transporting all their possessions to the new house. As a family, they would need to rebuild the foundations of their love & stability in this their new home, creating through the daily routines the normal habit of keeping each other on their personal goals & certainly, initially, their patience with each other whilst finding personal possessions in the many cardboard boxes, calling on strengths when tiredness overcame them to settle possessions into the respective rooms quickly.

The second visit was to my other daughter, who had been widowed in October 2020, when I was widowed in January 2021. We have had to accommodate the huge changes in our lives, it has at times taken much of our strength, and has also necessitated some reconstruction of our own foundations. We have both been learning, helping & supporting each other & her teenage daughter. We have learned to slowly strengthen our weakened inner foundations to become more stable, using the family and friends to help us feel secure and supported. We have taken small steps and have, however slowly, moved forward. Like a young plant we have continued to nourish ourselves and prioritise our needs, and, like my other daughter, we have kept the daily routine constant to build on. This has enabled us to create new inner foundations and to use this solid base to build on and look to the future.

As Christians we believe Christ is our foundation, all the tools needed to build, repair, and strengthen our foundations are given to us by him. So, let us pause in our daily lives to think about our individual foundations, and are we doing the following daily?

- Are we trusting in our Lord?
- Living by his word?
- Praying according to his word?

Adrienne Sedgeman

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ our Lord

The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
the world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

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From the Albums ... In May we welcomed Revd Sue Field, we enjoyed the art work of Willesley School pupils for our Pentecost service, & Messy Church produced a beautiful banner.



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Do You Know About ... The Choir?

Continuing our peep into the many and varied things that God does within our church.

As most will be aware, throughout the month the choir enjoys leading the sung worship across the range of services that we offer at St Helen's. Arguably the heart of the choir community is our lovely group of trebles who sit on the front row. Having joined the choir as a young treble myself, I feel that it was tremendously important in terms of my faith journey to have a place and purpose within the church community. We value our young people very much.

For the trebles, there is an opportunity to invest in their musical skills through the RSCM Voice for Life scheme. Singers can progress through several different levels, signified by a new coloured ribbon upon completion. Much of the preparation for the voice for life scheme is covered at Thursday choir practice, with some adult sopranos in assistance.

The choir successfully navigated the series of lockdowns by meeting weekly on Zoom, after many technical hurdles were overcome. Continuing to meet together virtually was much appreciated by all. The 'Lockdown Quartet' did a stirring job of continuing to lead the sung worship for our live-streamed services, putting in the hours to pre-record hymns and anthems for us all to enjoy.

This year the choir are heading out and about for a concert in Upper Tean. This collaboration with Great Wood school is something we have enjoyed on a pretty much annual basis for a long while now. There are also plans for us to then host the children of Great wood choir shortly after as they always enjoy visiting us so much! In addition to this the choir are booked to sing at a handful of weddings across the Flagstaff Family each year.



Have you ever thought about joining the choir? All that's needed is enthusiasm and a bit of an idea about the music. We have extras who join us for Easter and Christmas, or full time members who sing most weeks when available.

Emily Darlington

Quotes for the Month

'If I were King for the day ... I'd be in a bit of a pickle ... I'm a Quaker and as far as possible power should be shared out equally ... [so] don't bow down, or call me Your Majesty, but I hope we'd work together to value all life and to build peace and unity ... I think my reign would be a very short one, finishing just after breakfast.'

Quaker Andrew Lane, BBC's Radio 2's Pause for Thought, May 1st

'Justin Welby ... denied reports he had gone "rogue", describing preparations for the ceremony as a "huge, collaborative and very lovely process" involving his office and Buckingham Palace.'
No drama if public refuse to swear allegiance to King during coronation, inews.co.uk, May 2nd

'Most young adults I know aren't looking for a religion that answers all of their questions, but rather a community of faith in which they feel safe to ask them.'

Rachel Held Evans quoted by Sad Jesus Facebook page, May 3rd

'Football ... has its own cathedrals, bishops, priests, wardens, acolytes, rituals, chants, denominations, rivalries, and public displays. And football clubs do astonishing work in schools and the local community.'

Rambling Rector blog, May 3rd

'Today Charles will be given an orb, a symbol of the Earth with a cross standing over it. It is a reminder to him, and to us, that the world stands under the authority of a God who is love.'

Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, Alternatives to a Religious Coronation Would Be Worse, The Times, May 6th

'Want to hear an Epistle read properly? Ask a Hindu #Coronation.'

Revd Richard Coles, Twitter, May 6th

'We are here to crown a King, and we crown a King to serve.'

Archbishop of Canterbury's Sermon for The Coronation, Westminster Abbey, May 6th

'We can say to the King of Kings, God Himself, as does the King here today, 'give grace that in thy service I may find perfect freedom'.'

Archbishop of Canterbury's Sermon for The Coronation, Westminster Abbey, May 6th

'Reassuring to see Westminster Abbey struggling with the same rota shortage issues as every other CoE church. @JustinWelby on both welcome team and crowning team.'

Hannah Wilkinson, Twitter, May 6th

'Transcendent values of love and justice, a country shaped by its welcome of other nationalities and cultures, a conscious nurturing of the arts, and especially music: today's #Coronation'

Father Philip Murray, Twitter, May 6th

'Looks like Prince Louis has been whisked off to the children's group or crèche ... Shame he wasn't brought back just before the blessing to chat to the ABC about what he's been doing.'

Father Craig Huxley-Jones, Twitter, May 6th

'Christianity is basically a spiritual pyramid scheme of forgiveness. It's bonkers. It's not fair. It's not what we would likely come up with, but it's the most true, most beautiful thing in the world.'

Nadia Bolz-Weber, The Corners, <https://thecorners.substack.com>, May 7th

'It was not easy for the person who damaged the statue to come to the Cathedral and apologise. Instead of seeking revenge, we choose the more challenging path of forgiveness and growing understanding.'

Revd Canon Mary Gregory, Coventry Telegraph, May 9th

'When the first version of the Artificial Intelligence ChatGPT was released ... Professors were wondering what this means for course assignments and papers, and priests were exploring what sort of sermons could be composed by these soulless creatures.'

Fr. Matthew S.C. Olver, Ritual Repels the Robots, Covenant blog, May 9th

'It is morally unacceptable and politically impractical to let the poorest countries deal with the crisis alone and cut our international aid.'

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby on the government's illegal migration bill, House of Lords, May 10th

'The modern, or do I mean postmodern, church needs to pay close attention to 2 syndromes and one complex: Imposter Syndrome, Stockholm Syndrome, and the Messiah Complex.'

Andrew Lightbown, Speaking of Ologies and Economic Theory, Theore0 blog, May 12th

'First ever cassock sighted on Eurovision. I feel included.'

Revd Canon Christopher Robinson, Twitter, May 13th

'Part of seeing God's kingdom come about is to unpick the culture that doesn't allow all people to flourish.'

Theologian Will Moore, Menfluencers, BBC Radio 4's Beyond Belief, May 15th

'1. Respect needs to go both ways otherwise it is unhealthy deference. 2. Respect is allowed to ask questions otherwise it is unhealthy deference. 3. Respect is honest and transparent otherwise it is unhealthy deference.'

Rev Jody Stowell, Twitter, May 18th

'The days of coming to church at half past ten or eleven o'clock in the morning one day a week, and the one-size fits all, that's well in the past.'

Rev Moira McDonald, BBC News, May 19th

'Have you heard the story about Goldilocks and the church? ...In the original story, Goldilocks walked in and helped herself to fulfil her needs. How much better it would have been if she'd been invited in by the bears, initially as a guest, and then hopefully over time as a welcomed and cherished part of their extended family. My imagination likes to think she'd have been treated to something far tastier than porridge!'

Jules Morgan, UCAN Executive Director, www.churchadministrators.net/newsposts, May 22nd

'Did I offer peace today? Did I Bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I love? These are the real questions.'

Henri Nouwen quoted on the Unfundamentalist Facebook page, May 22nd

'Should Christian women wear bikinis on holiday or is 'modest hottest'?'

Lizzie Hutchinson, womanalive.co.uk, May 23rd

'God is actually powerful enough to do God's redemptive gospel work beyond just the Christian symbol system. Yet the church has often deemed it heresy to imply God might be astonishing and creative enough to do just this.'

Nadia Bolz-Weber, The Sacred Promiscuity of Pentecost, thecorners.substack.com, May 28th

'I can be the presence of Jesus in my family, my home, my school, my community, my place of work.'

Archbishop of York, BBC Radio 4 Daily Service, May 28th



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