

✚ ST GILES' Ⓜ St Margaret's



Two new residents at the Vicarage – see page 3 (Photo: Thomas Walters)

BENEFICE NEWS

August 2022

Free

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VICARAGE KITTENS!

LAST month, some new members joined the Walters family! That's right, Minerva (Minnie) (*left*) and Mercury (Merry) (*right*), aged 13 weeks old, have arrived. The kittens are already a big part of the family, generating lots of fun, cuddles, laughs, purrs (though more Minnie than Merry) and lots of poo. The twins are also very playful, my school lanyard being one example; and very inquisitive - especially



about places they're not supposed to go and the inflatable burritos in the dining room.

Their favourite spots are probably the pet

carrier, under the futon, and below the study chair; and their favourite objects are Daniel's shoelaces, my lanyard, food, and the downstairs odds-and-ends basket. They are very cute.

Please let us know if you have allergies or need them to be shut away while you're coming to stay.



Thomas Walters

VICAR'S LETTER

AT a licensing service that I attended last year in a neighbouring benefice, Bishop Steven reminded the congregations of the



parishes who were assembled that their new priest was not primarily there to minister **to** them. Rather, she was there to minister **with** them **to** the communities which these churches serve.

I don't know what the congregations thought about that. Perhaps they were surprised! I thought it was a wonderfully upside-down way of viewing the place of our churches in the world. It reminded me of that famous saying of William

Temple, former Archbishop of Canterbury: "the Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members".

This may be news to some Christians, regardless of denomination! It may be natural to assume that the Church exists precisely for its members. Many individuals up and down the country give generously of their time and/or their money to their local church, which is wonderful. But not if it's viewed as a transaction – I'll "pay" by doing A, B or C, but I expect to "get" X, Y or Z. And if I don't, I'll take my business elsewhere!

Local churches are in some ways similar to voluntary clubs, associations, and societies. Church members regularly come together on a regular basis, to hear a (hopefully) interesting talk and have a good sing-song. They might arrange special social events. They might raise money for good causes.

All of these are good things in themselves. But they are not what the Church is fundamentally *for*, which is to make God's love known and real in the lives of those around them. Whenever a local church adopts a "me first" or even an "us first" approach, it is in danger of becoming insular and inward-looking. The Church – whether at a local, national or international level – is nothing if it's not an outward-looking community, committed to loving and serving Christ in the face of the other.

What does that mean for us as members of St Giles' or St Margaret's? As much as anything, it means a change of mindset. Not necessarily about doing more, or giving more – although like many local churches, we are struggling both to find volunteers and the financial

resources we need in a post-pandemic world, and it is incumbent upon all of us to discern how we may most wisely use the resources of time, money and skill which God has gifted us with. (And we'll be exploring our stewardship of those resources in the coming months).

More fundamental than *how much* we give, however, is the question of our *attitude* and our *motivation*. Do we see our giving of time and money as a way to make sure that we continue to get the things that we like (music, preaching, social opportunities)? Or is it a response to the generous and abundant love of God?

How can we be open to the visitors, the enquirers, the newcomers, the local community – those who are not yet members of our churches, and may never be? How do we make God's love real to them?

Daniel Walters

GINA WILSON, 1st April 1943-23rd June 2022



***Funeral Address given by Canon Andrew Bunch on 13th July 2022
at St Margaret's Church***

LIFE is full of problems, and the way people deal with them reveals their true character. The last few years of Gina's life were not easy, to say the least, knowing that she had an illness that could be managed for a while, but would inevitably develop into a terminal condition. So how did Gina deal with it? Yes, there was shock and sadness when it was originally diagnosed, but she quickly moved into an attitude of acceptance, and a desire to make the most of the life that she had left to her on this earth. Yes, she was brave as she dealt with the final stage, accepting new drugs trials offered to her which enabled

her to live far longer than people expected. She had to be very careful trying to avoid infections over the whole of this time, but that wasn't the whole story. Her character was not changed by the challenges she faced.

I have known Gina for over 20 years, and throughout that time, there have been several strands of her character which have had a remarkable consistency. They were: the love for her family; a desire to enjoy the fun of life; a keen observation of others; and a constant desire to help people with problems that they found difficult to face. She knew the realities of life – that all people are different and have diverse gifts which need to be encouraged, and difficulties that they have to deal with in ways which are appropriate to them.

She was so delighted when Edward found, in a book on horticulture, the drawing of the young Shakespeare – she shared in his delight and rejoiced in Edward's scholarship. In this church community, she enjoyed encouraging the social life and participating in events which would bring people together. I remember a particular occasion in St Margaret's Institute which involved her poem about cats, and acting out the actions of cats.

Yes, she rejoiced in life and what it could offer and encouraged a positive appreciation. But Gina's work was not just accepting the good times of life, it was about accepting the full reality, and recognising that life could only be experienced in its fullness when difficult situations were faced and a way forward found which was sensitive to all. She spent hours with people, giving them the space to talk around the problems that were burdening them and restricting their outlook on life. By generously giving them a safe space and the time to gently probe what was causing their fears, Gina was able to help people make the slow tentative steps forward that were necessary. She was a good listening presence to them: accepting, patient, understanding, and gentle.

Gina was a person of a deep and living faith, who honestly wanted to allow the love of God to direct her approach to life, even when she found it challenging. She had learnt that allowing the love of God to fill her life enabled her to face those things which quite naturally would cause fear – for she knew the truth that love casts out fear. This wasn't always easy – but she knew it was the right way forward; and that by

accepting the reality of life – both for herself and others – a transformation could come through an approach fashioned by love.

The reading of the story of the healing of Blind Bartimaeus in this service was chosen with this attitude in mind because Bartimaeus had faith in Jesus, accepted his true reality and didn't hold anything back. As a consequence, he was able to live life fully and know the love of God at work in him. This is the approach that I saw in process in Gina's life, both before and during her illness. She let the love of God into her being, and acceptance, love, transformation and joy followed.

So, let us give thanks for the life Gina shared with us and the window onto the larger view of life that she enabled us to see when the presence of love became very real as problems were faced. Let us learn from her example, and let the wisdom she lived out seep into our being, for then our lives will be enriched by her example. And then we will rejoice with her as she begins the next stage of life, being in a closer unity with God – the ultimate source of love, and our Creator.

ST GILES GARDENING GROUP – MORE VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

WE ARE a small friendly group of around six people who attempt to maintain the gardens of the church. However, we do seek to expand – so please come and join us! We meet on the third Saturday of the month, weather permitting, from 10:30 – 12 noon (next meeting:



20th August), with coffee and cake time included. The gardening toolshed provides most of our needs, but it helps to bring your own secateurs and gardening gloves. There's no need to have any previous gardening skills: we all help each other! All ideas from gardeners in the congregation, especially in connection with wildlife promotion, are also gratefully received.

As the seasons change, so does our work. At the moment there is much cutting back of hedging, clipping, and bagging up, especially on the Woodstock Road path alongside the Parish Rooms. Weeding the gardens either side of the church front entrance is a big management task. The memorial stones to the East side of the church need the grass cutting back from them, and several tombstones nearby cleared of

moss. The Council cuts the grass in the South graveyard, where it is able, and leaves a wildflower section at the War Memorial end. They also attempt a cut to the North graveyard adjacent to the path, although we are constantly discussing ways of management for this site, it being completely overgrown with rock rose (*Helianthemum*).



The entire grave-yard is a Conservation area, so the Council attend to the trees and large bushes as necessary and allowed.

The Himalayan Peony (*Paeonia emodi*) in the front garden bed at St Giles' has blossomed beautifully this year. It is admired by all who pass and one such person enquired whether it was 'the fried egg plant?!'

WANTED: Does anyone have spare shrubs in their garden for our boxes in the Parish Room gardens and for the front garden? We would be most grateful for any donations of suitable plants.

Helen Dodd (email hedodd@gmail.com Tel: 07552 187856)

ST GILES' BELLRINGING NEWS (1)

CONGRATULATIONS to 16-year-old Sara Jones, one of the St Giles' band of bellringers, who took part in the 11th annual *Ringling World National Youth Contest* in Exeter on Saturday 2nd July 2022. She was a member of a band chosen from a group of under-19s who have been meeting during the past year for monthly practices organised by the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (ODG).

In spite of last-minute changes due to Covid, and one member of the band (Simon) having to ring the treble one-handed because he had a broken arm, the



ODG band came Fourth equal among seven bands who rang a more

advanced test piece, after bands from Sussex, Lancashire, and Yorkshire. Sixteen other bands competed at a simpler level.

While the bands were taking turns to ring their competition pieces, a full programme of other ringing activities was available for the young visitors. Sara managed to ring at seven different towers during the day, among them Exeter Cathedral, whose ring of twelve bells is the second heaviest in the world suitable for English-style change-ringing.

And she performed creditably when given the opportunity to ring the 72 cwt (3.6 ton) heaviest bell of the Exeter Cathedral peal, with the help of one of the local ringers.

John Pusey

OXFORD BLUE PLAQUES IN THE BENEFICE

Sir Richard Doll (Epidemiologist), 12 Rawlinson Road, Oxford

WILLIAM Richard Shaboe Doll is considered one of the most important medical scientists of the 20th century and played a major part in preventing many millions of premature deaths from smoking. He was born in Hampton to Henry Doll, physician and surgeon, and his wife Kathleen, a celebrated concert pianist. He attended Westminster School where he proved an outstanding mathematician but he opted to enter the medical school at St Thomas's Hospital. He was by now an atheist and a member of the Communist Party (an affiliation he maintained until the brutal suppression of the Hungarian uprising in 1956). In WW2 he served with the RAMC.

When the Medical Research Council (MRC) sought to account for the dramatic rise in lung cancer deaths since the 1920s, Doll, assisting the great pioneering epidemiologist Austen Bradford Hill, investigated smoking as a likely cause. The results in 1950 indicated a strong association between cigarettes and lung cancer. This bombshell met with incredulity from the medical establishment and resistance from the tobacco industry. One criticism was that the study had been retrospective and unreliable. Doll then set about prospective research on a cohort of some 34,000 volunteer doctors who as heavy smokers made ideal subjects. The results confirmed the original research and also



revealed the link with cardiovascular disease. Doll, with his later colleague Richard Peto, continued to refine the study of the effects of smoking for the next 50 years. He applied his methods to the hazards of radiation, and detection of occupational and environmental hazards such as those presented by asbestos. Striking results again often met with corporate denial and intransigence. Doll countered with unwavering determination to report his results. Always a scientist dedicated to establishing the facts, he left the campaigning to others.

In 1969 he became Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, the first epidemiologist to hold the post. He inevitably made Oxford the cynosure of epidemiological studies but he won over the clinicians too by creating five new medical chairs, transforming the clinical school into a distinguished and thriving department. He became the first warden of Green College, which he conceived initially as a single-subject institution designed to meet the academic and social needs of clinical students - a bold and controversial idea which met with some opposition in the early days. Doll persuaded the



Texan philanthropist Cecil Green to provide the funds for the new college, elegantly housed in the Radcliffe Observatory and adjoining buildings. The college later amalgamated medical with business and social studies and is now known as Green Templeton College.

Doll received many honours: he became an FRS in 1966, was knighted in 1971; and in 1996 became a Companion of Honour for 'services of national importance'. Many honorary degrees and fellowships were awarded to him both at home and abroad.



After retirement in 1983, the Dolls went to live in Rawlinson Road. In 2001 the loss of his beloved wife, Dr Joan Faulkner, who had had a distinguished career as a senior scientific administrator at the MRC, was a shattering blow. He went on working every day at the Oxford Cancer

Epidemiology Unit and the Clinical Trial Service Unit and saw the opening of the new Richard Doll Building in 2005 shortly before his death. (<http://www.oxonblueplaques.org.uk/plaques/doll.html>)

ST GILES' FAIR

I recently found an old copy of Jan Morris's *Oxford* (first published in 1965) and was interested to see that there were a couple of paragraphs about the fair. (The writing is "of its time" – and for present-day readers almost needs a "sensitive content" warning!)

"St Giles Fair is a survivor of the great country fairs of mediaeval England and falls upon Oxford like a feverish dream on the Monday and Tuesday after the first Sunday in September [...]. It is an inexorable sort of festivity – in September 1914 they tried to cancel it, but the Home Secretary himself admitted that he was powerless to do so. The whole wide street of St Giles is closed for it. For these two days of the year the University Parks and Christ Church meadows, the two main open spaces of the city, are closed to the public. Traffic is diverted, business is disrupted, the night is gaudy with neon, and all among the plane trees there proliferate the sideshows, caravans and pulsing generators of the showmen.

It is the most boisterous of Oxford traditions, the profits of which go partly to the city and partly to the college of St John's, the local land-owner; and it brings together in an atmosphere of unnatural intensity every type and kind of Oxford citizen. The academics go with their burbling children, eating iced lollipops and arguing the toss with indulgent showmen in piping cultured accents. The factory families go, trailing balloons and sweet papers, and hugging flowery vases they have won at shooting galleries. The farmers go, stumping stoically through the hubbub with kind wives in blue hats. The aldermen go – in 1950 Alderman Smewin officially complained to the City Council that there had been only one set of Galloping Horses to ride on. The parish clergy go, from a sense of boyish duty, and the weedy louts go to stand around in bow-legged moronic cliques, licking candy floss; and the shop-girls go, to let their skirts fly on the Big Dipper. Every degree is represented there, from the exquisite patrician to the grubbiest slut in carpet slippers: and flushed from their normal habitats like this, thrown together between the Bingo stalls and the Man-Eating Rat, they always seem to me larger, finer or more awful

than life. George's Café [in the covered market] feels genially blended; but St Giles's Fair is like a city with its masks torn off, seen with a flushed clarity, and it makes you wonder how such contrasts can ever be reconciled. It is sure to end, you feel, like all the worst dreams, in a scream, a cold sweat or a blackout. Oxford, however, is old, and experienced at the game. By Wednesday morning all those stalls and roundabouts have miraculously disappeared, and the scholars, the charge-hands, the oafs and the parsons are restored to their blurred and unalarming selves."

- There are (or soon will be!) lists in church asking for volunteers to assist with stewarding etc at St Giles' Fair 2022 (5th and 6th September).

THE OXFORD-BONN TWINNING

I was pleased to have the opportunity to join other members of the Cathedral band in ringing the bells at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin on Saturday 18th June 2022, before a joint Anglican-Lutheran bilingual service to celebrate the **75th anniversary** of the twinning arrangement between the cities of Oxford and Bonn. This service also acknowledged the continuing existence of a congregation set up in 1939 by Germans fleeing Nazi terror, who still hold services once a month at the University Church.



The service was led by the City Rector, Rev Anthony Buckley, and was attended by the newly-appointed German Ambassador (less than a month after his arrival in London), the Mayor of Bonn, the Lord Mayor of Oxford, and the Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire. Hymns were sung simultaneously in both languages (and standing up, English style), but the prayers were said with a sentence in one language being followed by a translation into the other.

Intercessions

WE PRAY for your church throughout the world, remembering Christians everywhere, whether they are meeting in small groups, in churches or in the great cathedrals.

MAY WE respect the beliefs and convictions of others, even if we do not share them. Help us to celebrate what we have in common and binds us together, bless all ecumenical contacts and all joint efforts for the communities where we live.

WE REMEMBER those who have died, especially those who have worked for our Oxford-Bonn twinning. All these, the sick, the suffering and those who have died, we remember now in a moment of silence

The Lord's Prayer

VATER unser im Himmel, Geheiligt werde dein Name;
Dein Reich komme; Dein Wille geschehe, Wie im Himmel so auf Erden.
Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute.
Und vergib uns unsere Schuld,
Wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern;
Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung, Sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.
Denn dein ist das Reich und die Kraft und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit.
Amen. *John Pusey*

THE OXFORD HENGE

OXFORD is the largest city in the UK that does not have a Roman foundation. The assumption has been, therefore, that it began with settlement by the Anglo Saxons in the 10th century. But what was there before? Oxford is situated on a gravel spur embraced by the Thames and the Cherwell; and the water meadows that still exist have always been there, at least since Neolithic times. Because of the glories of its medieval architecture, there is scant opportunity for archaeology, but such opportunities have arisen in the past decade as colleges strive to offer better facilities. It is in the Science Area that most pre-development archaeology has taken place, and the marks of barrows and a cursus have been discovered. In 2008, something extraordinary was unearthed when work began on the Kendrew Quad for St John's College: a section of a ring ditch of vast size. Oxford, it seems, had been a sacred sanctuary with a ritual henge marking the place where two rivers meet. It seems to be a feature of the sacred landscape of the Bronze Age in the Upper Thames Valley, to build a henge at a confluence.

The henge was described in a paper by George Lambrick in *Oxoniensia* 2013, but very few people are aware of its discovery. A cover-up? Yes, and a very literal one. From that one section, however, they have been able to determine that it was 155m in diameter and thus one of the largest in the country. It dates to the early Bronze Age. Its girth encompasses Keble College and University Museum. It is fun to think that *The Inklings* met in a pub that would have stared into the

ditch, had those two epochs coincided. And it leads to – even more fanciful – speculation that the foundation of the university here was not as arbitrary as some suppose; and that Oxford’s tendency to breed dons with a genius for writing children’s fantasy literature may be a sacred emanation from our storytelling ancestors of the deep past. Someone saw this spur rising above water meadows as an ideal place for a university. Perhaps it was Holy-Island-thinking: a university where the great subjects would be studied, with a view to furthering knowledge of God and Cosmos. A university which has hosted some of the greatest minds of the kingdom. The henge was destroyed, probably by time, and not built over until the 19th century. For all that time, it remained under grass, while young scholars studied the liberal arts, as ignorant as *The Inklings* of what lay beneath. *Linda Proud* (lindaproud.com/the-oxford-henge)

“ORDINARY SAINTS”: A COLLABORATION IN WORD, IMAGE, & SOUND

SOMEHOW, we know that a carefully made portrait is very different from a snapshot likeness.

There is something in a lovingly conceived and wrought image that compels us to stop, to look, to meditate on the mystery of the Person. Such images communicate real presence. In the tradition of religious icons, the images of saints and of



Christ are understood as more than portraits: no real physical likeness but rather, they are meant to be a portal of communion and remembrance – a sacrament, like the elements of bread and wine in the Eucharist. We tend to think of saints as extraordinary people, particularly renowned for their virtue or holiness; yet we can be arrested by glimpses of such qualities in those familiar to us. Or perhaps we miss them through inattention.

Ordinary Saints is a collaborative endeavour, comprising portraits by Bruce Herman, ekphrastic poetry by Malcolm Guite in response to the paintings, and integrative instrumental and vocal music by J.A.C. Redford, that will seek to focus the attention and plumb the liminal space between portrait and icon, inviting the viewer and listener into deeper communion with the faces of “those immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry,

snub, and exploit.” Will our own faces be unveiled in return? Will we find in them hints of an original icon from which all of our faces are derived?

GEORGE PULFORD’S WAR – AND A POSTSCRIPT

GEORGE Pulford, who celebrated his 101st birthday on Christmas Day 2021, has the distinction of being one of the only two surviving members of the crew of the battleship *Prince of Wales*. *Prince of Wales*,



together with the battle-cruiser *Repulse*, was sunk by Japanese aircraft off the coast of Malaya on 10th December 1941, while trying to intercept a Japanese invasion fleet. The war in the Far East

had started a few days earlier, with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor

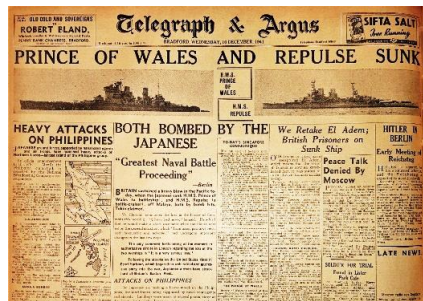
on 7th December. George was appointed to the staff of Admiral Tom Phillips as a Petty Officer Writer

(the naval term for a Clerk/Administrator) just before Admiral Phillips took *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* out on their ill-fated final voyage. When the Japanese

attacked, George’s action station

was deep within the bowels of the ship and he was lucky that someone called down a hatch telling him to get up on deck as the ship was sinking. He went over the side into water covered with a thick layer of fuel oil which stung and burned his eyes. After about an hour he was picked up by the destroyer *HMS Express*, which took him back to Singapore; 327 of his shipmates had been lost.

This, however, was only the beginning of a run of good luck for George. On Christmas Day 1941 George celebrated his 21st birthday – the “cake” being a corned beef sandwich! From Singapore, George was transferred to Batavia (now Jakarta). At the end of February 1942, as it became clear that the Japanese would conquer the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia), most Royal Navy staff were evacuated. George was left behind to burn all the confidential papers, and then set off to look



for a ship on which to escape. He eventually reached a port where two ships were taking on refugees, and arranged passage on the smaller one – another stroke of luck, as the larger one was torpedoed. Apparently the smaller ship had also been attacked, but it was of such shallow draft that the torpedoes passed beneath it. George was fortunate enough to reach Western Australia without encountering the strong Japanese fleet sinking ships in the area.

But George's run of luck had still not ended. He reached Sydney on 31st May 1942 and was put up on a disused ferry which was being used as an accommodation ship. Later that day he visited the sights of Sydney and decided to spend the night ashore. That night Japanese midget submarines attacked Sydney Harbour. One of their torpedoes hit George's accommodation ship and 21 people were killed. George finally reached the UK via the Panama Canal, and the rest of his war was relatively uneventful. As a result of a knee injury he was invalided out of the Navy at the end of the war.



At this point, we fast-forward to 5th November 2021. George suffered a collapse at home. Ian, one of the ambulance crew taking him to the JR, is interested in veterans and their stories and was fascinated to learn that George had been one of the crew of *Prince of Wales*. A particular reason for his interest was that on 10th Dec 2021 there was to be an 80th Anniversary

Memorial Service for the crews of *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* at the Memorial to them in the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield, and it was hoped that any survivors would be able to attend. George and his wife, Pat, had doubts about his being up to the journey, but these were resolved when Ian offered to take them there and back. They are immensely grateful to him. The service was taken by the Chaplain of the present *HMS Prince of Wales*, and a delegation of her crew were present. George laid the wreath to his fallen



comrades at the Memorial Stone, alongside Jim Wren, the survivor of *Repulse*.
(From *Kidlington News*, Feb 2022; kindly sent in by Margaret Williamson).

ST GILES' BELLRINGING NEWS (2)

Sunday, 19th June 2022 – Quarter Peal

1260 Plain Bob Minor in 43 minutes

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Colin P Taylor | 4 John G Pusey |
| 2 Sara Jones | 5 Cameron White-Spunner (C) |
| 3 Paul C Lucas | 6 Ben White-Horne |

*Rung as congratulations and best wishes to Cameron and Ben on completing their degree courses.
Also to mark the 75th anniversary of the twinning of the cities of Oxford and Bonn.*

THIS quarter peal was rung after the 10:30 service; we hope also to ring after the service on several other Sunday mornings during the next few weeks. It illustrates neatly how ringing at St Giles' depends on assistance from ringers primarily affiliated elsewhere for our more ambitious performances. Two of this band belong to the Oxford University Society; two to St Andrew's, Headington; and only two to St Giles'. *John Pusey*



100 Years Ago – St Giles' Parish Magazine, August 1922

From the Vicar (Rev Charles C Inge): St Giles', Estevan: We had a great pleasure on July 17th, in a visit from Miss Rogers, a teacher in the Secondary School at Estevan, who came with a party of teachers from Canada on the invitation of the Victoria League. The news which she brought of our daughter Church was most encouraging. A new Rector, the Rev. Charles Harrington, has just entered upon his duties. The stained glass windows, representing the four Evangelists, which we sent from our own chancel, are very greatly valued, as coloured glass is not common in the Prairie Churches. Two more stained glass windows have been placed in the Church as a War Memorial to the employees of the Hudson Bay

Company who gave their lives in the war. These windows were dedicated in May by Canon Hicks, whom we remember so well as the preacher at the Harvest Festival in 1920. The new Church seems to be the centre of vigorous Church life, and being a War Memorial is valued by all the Estevan people, whether they belong to the Church of England or not.

Miss Rogers told us of a little boy in her school, who said that they had now got a “real” Church, and there are but few real Churches in that part of Canada. It is to be feared that prosperity will not return just yet to the district. The soft coal which is mined at Estevan is hardly marketable while freights are so high. But with the enthusiasm and good will of which Miss Rogers gives so excellent an account, there is little fear of the Church lacking the necessary support. We are assured also that there is at Estevan a strong feeling of interest in St Giles’, Oxford, and every desire to maintain and strengthen the tie which has been so happily formed. We must see that nothing that we can do in this direction is neglected.

I found the following online, from Sept 2019: St Giles Anglican Church celebrates 100-year anniversary - Bishop Robert Hardwick was in Estevan to participate in the celebration. (Presumably the stained glass in the picture was originally from St Giles’ Oxford.)





AS the Jubilee year, 2022 has been a year of trying to feel connected to those around us. Not just our loved ones, but the neighbours that we shared smiles and greetings with during the Lockdowns: our North Oxford community. We wanted to explore creating a space where these connections could flourish and grow.

In early Spring, Susie, Charlotte and I met to discuss what this might look like and the idea of an occasional community café was born. Together we decided that we wanted a space where people from the streets surrounding St Margaret's could bring along a neighbour and have tea (or coffee), cake and chat. It will be all-age friendly, hopefully with something for the very oldest to the very youngest.

Our first St Margaret's Community Café will take place on **20th August** from 3-5pm. If you are part of a Street *Whatsapp* group, please contact Eva (eva@stmargaretsoxford.org) for an image to share on your group. Please do join us - all welcome, across the benefice - and bring a neighbour or friend!

Eva Walters

Congratulations Corner



Each month, we'll be sharing with you some of the special achievements of those children and young people connected to our benefice. If you would like to share an achievement in the magazine, please contact eva@stmargaretsoxford.org



Congratulations to 16-year-old Sara Jones from St Giles' band of bellringers, one of a band representing Oxford Diocese which came 4th equal in a contest at Exeter between more than 20 bands of under-19 bellringers from all over England.

During a day of ringing activities laid on for the visitors, Sara had the opportunity to ring the 72 cwt (3.6 ton) heaviest bell at Exeter Cathedral (the second heaviest set of English-style bells), with some local help (picture).

Samuel Harris has had a busy few months. As well as being the newest member of St Margaret's Choir, Samuel has also been working hard towards his piano and singing exams.

This June he successfully passed both Grade 5 piano and Grade 3 singing! Congratulations, Samuel!!



Lewie Harris has had an amazing rowing year; winning 5 gold medals in regatta's in the South East and 2 bronze medals in national rowing competitions for under 14's.

As if that wasn't enough, he has also just passed his Grade 5 piano exam and Grade 5 singing exam in June.

Well done, Lewie!!