

✚ ST GILES' Ⓜ St Margaret's



St Giles' Choir tour to Italy, July 2022

BENEFICE NEWS

September 2022

Free

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2022

Series 10

Patron: Jacqui Dankworth MBE

Commemorating Jean Darke 1933-2021

Programme

- **September 17**
Dominic Alldis Trio
- **October 8**
The Oxley - Meier Guitar Project
- **October 29**
Brigitte Beraha, George Crowley,
Aleyona Mick and Tim Giles
- **November 12**
Oxford's Big Band— Donut Kings
- **December 3**
Budapest Café Orchestra

Tickets:

- £20 Standard/£16 concessions (over 65)
- £10 Assisted Mobility/£5 Assistant
- £10 Student
- £5 Under 18







St Giles' Church, Oxford

www.jazzatstgiles.com



BENEFICE CONTACTS

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St Giles'

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St Margaret's

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VICAR'S LETTER

IF I started talking about the “daily office”, I wonder what would come to mind for you? For many people, it may bring a shudder from past memories or current realities of a daily commute to a large air-conditioned, open plan building. But in Anglican terms of course it means something quite different – the daily round of prayers, psalms, canticles and scripture which can trace its way back to the very earliest Christian communities, and developed more systematically by St Benedict in the 6th century. In the West, Catholic clergy and religious (monks and nuns) were expected to keep the full sevenfold office until recently (many monasteries still do).



In fact originally, these “offices” – times of prayer which punctuated the day, originally according to the three hour intervals when the local bells would chime out (6am, 9am, 12 noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm) were intended for all, not just the “professional Christians”! The value was not only of a regular, structured discipline – a framework



for prayer which was always there, whether we could find the words and motivation ourselves or not, connecting our daily lives to the eternal reality of God’s love – not only that, but also a sense of community, of saying the same prayers, reading the same scripture, even when

separated from one another.

Over time, however, these offices became longer and more complicated, and increasingly impractical, especially for a largely illiterate population. One of Cranmer’s great achievements in the *BCP* was compressing all of these down to Morning and Evening Prayer (or Mattins and Evensong) as a more realistic daily commitment for secular parish clergy (this requirement still exists, though not always observed!). And these services retain great popularity across the Anglican world, especially as part of Sunday worship.

However, the BCP does have its limitations as a daily office book, especially for lay people with other commitments. The readings and psalms are often quite long, making it impractical for busy people. There is very little daily or seasonal variation, with scant regard to the Church's year. And there is little in the way of flexibility, recognising that – today more than ever – different individuals have different patterns of life.

Acknowledging this, the Church of England (along with many other churches), now provides a variety of ways to allow everyone to participate in this ancient and shared form of prayer.

Firstly, its current daily office book ***Common Worship: Daily Prayer*** (2005) not only updates Morning and Evening Prayer but also provides different forms throughout the seasons of the Church's year, and daily variations during the long non-seasonal stretches of Ordinary Time. Its two (and a bit!) year cycle of readings is largely repeated between the morning and evening lectionary, so if you can only manage one daily office then you'll still get through the cycle eventually. And it provides more options in the form of Night Prayer (compline) and "Prayer During the Day", a shorter and simpler office which can be used at mid-day or any time during the day, either with the full lectionary or with short, given readings.

But *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* can still seem a bit intimidating with all its bookmarks and sections – especially if you're not used to it! It's also a bit pricey at around £25, plus a new lectionary each year. So here are some other approaches.

Firstly, if you find yourself available during the week at 9 am (at St Margaret's) or 5:30 pm (at St Giles'), why not **come and join us** in saying Morning or Evening Prayer together? There's no need to commit to coming every day or even every week, but if you are ever free you are always welcome – and it's a lot less scary when we're doing it together and there's someone to point the way if you get lost!

Alternatively, it's possible to **download an app** to your Android or Apple phone, allowing you to say it alone or with others in a quick and easy way – no bookmarks, no looking up Bible passages – it's all there laid out for you, for any given day, using the same readings and prayers that we have at home. Search for an app called "Daily Prayer from the CofE" which includes Morning, Evening and Night Prayer; or another one called "Time to Pray" which includes Prayer

During the Day and Night Prayer (both are published by Aimer Media). The other advantage these apps have is that you can **listen to an audio version** of the offices as you say the prayers, which can be especially helpful if you're on your own. These are very well done, with choral music accompanying the spoken word.

Alternatively, if you **listen to podcasts**, the daily offices are offered on most major podcasting platforms – search for “Daily Prayer: Common Worship Morning and Evening Prayer” or “Time to Pray: Common Worship Day and Night Prayer”.

The Church of England also publish a book each year called **Reflections for Daily Prayer** (around £16). This provides a short, simple office using the readings and psalms set for Morning Prayer that day (or you can use it in conjunction with the full Morning Prayer office), and a reflection on one of the Bible passages which have just been read, written by prominent figures from across the Anglican world. This is also available in app form (with the same name).

Finally, if you prefer to pray at your computer desk, the **Church of England's website** offers all the text and audio options above at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Whatever way works for you, I absolutely commend the discipline of daily prayer to you, even when - in fact *especially* when - we don't feel like it. Don't expect dramatic overnight change, but the faithful commitment to this pattern over time draws us closer to God, to the wisdom of his scriptures, and to his love to us.

God bless,

Daniel

HOLY CROSS DAY – 14th Sept. The feast in honour of the Cross of Christ is also known as *The Exaltation of the Cross*. In the Western Church, the Martyrology & Offices commemorate on this day the exposition of the supposed true Cross at Jerusalem in 629 by the Emperor Heraclius, after his recovery of it from the Persians into whose hands it had fallen in 614. Actually this event in Jerusalem took place in the spring, and the date, 14th Sept, has become attached to it through confusion with a much earlier commemoration kept in Jerusalem on that day, namely the dedication in 335 of the basilica built by the Emperor Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulchre. (*Dictionary of the Christian Church*, 3rd ed, 1997)

BELL RINGING NEWS (1)

ON 15th July, members of the Oxford Society of Change Ringers, and members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers joined together to launch two weeks of celebrations, marking the 400th anniversary of Oxford Botanic Garden, the oldest botanic garden in the UK. At 1:15pm, bells were rung from Magdalen Tower and St Giles' Church in Oxford; St Peter & St Paul's Church in Aston Rowant; and St Mary the Virgin Church in Longcot. At the same time, bells could be heard throughout Oxfordshire, recognising the history of the Botanic Garden, and the tradition of English change ringing.

"We had 12 ringers at St Giles' Church to ring for the Botanic Garden's Anniversary, which was a particularly satisfying achievement for me, having visited the Gardens from time to time for over 70 years, having a first degree and a doctorate in Botany from the University of Oxford, and also being a member of the Friends of the Gardens."

John Pusey



The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers has the largest membership in the country and its territory contains the cities, towns and villages of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. They have 15 branches, and today the approximate 2400 membership represents over 400 ringable towers.

St Giles' Church, Oxford

Friday, 15th July 2022 (14-0-1 in F#)

Rounds, Call Changes, Plain Hunt on 7 and on 8

Jane Bishop
Samuel Fuentes
Mark Hunter
Clare Jakeman
Stephen Jakeman
Geraint Jones

Alison T Merryweather-Clarke
John G Pusey
Susan E M Read
Amelie Wymer
Kathy Xu



LITTLE FISHES @ ST MARGARET'S

St Margaret's are relaunching our Toddler Group this month with a renewed focus on reaching more families in our community. Do you know a neighbour or friend with 0 to pre-school age children that would enjoy a morning of fun every Friday of term-time in St Margaret's Church? Or are you part of a neighbourhood whatsapp or email group for the streets around St Margaret's? Why not let them know about it?



We start the session at 9am (or straight after school drop off) with free play then a mid-morning healthy snack of fruit with tea and coffee for the grown ups. At 10:30 we finish with an optional Bible storytime and songs. All are welcome and there is no pressure to stay for the story time. Just dip in and out of it as much or as little as you like. There are lots of friendly faces all waiting to welcome you and your family.



PROJECT 900 UPDATE

THE Project 900 Steering Group was able to report in positive terms to the PCC at the Awayday on 10th July 2022. Despite the continuing malign influence of Covid, and limited grant fundraising (a result of not having necessary paperwork in place), £121,720 has been raised since July 2021. This is a great achievement. We have been asked to update the Congregation, hence this article, which takes stock of the Project at the beginning of the summer holidays.

Sponsor a Pipe has been very successful, and especial thanks are due to John Chelsom for creating this software. And of course, thanks are due to all the donors who have contributed to the total of £86,437.52 that was reported to the PCC, a figure that we know to be slightly out of date. Hooray!

In addition, there have been a number of individual gifts including one for £20k and a pledge for a similar amount while the programme of events, including a variety of performances from soloists, Midsummer Music, the Jubilee Concert and the Auction of Promises, is bringing in welcome and steady income.

Thank you to all those who are participating and to those who are supporting these activities.

Funds raised

The funds raised so far now add up to £461,665, that is 72% of our target figure of £642,000. The sources of these funds are:

Vicar and Churchwardens' Trust	£260,000
Sponsor a Pipe	£86,437
Income from gifts and events	£105,228
Grants awarded (see below)	£10,000

Funds to be raised

We have £180,335 to raise. We recognise that this is a challenging target but we are optimistic that this can be reached. We are in touch with some high-level potential individual supporters; we are confident that both *Sponsor a Pipe* and our events programme will continue to raise funds; and we plan to move forward energetically with grant applications.

Grant applications

We have had a 100% success so far – one application made, one grant awarded. Why only one? Most of the trusts interested in either church building, or the organ or both in combination, require either up-to-date accounts and/or Faculties in place. Catherine Hilliard and Nicholas Prozzillo have shown representatives of two trusts around St Giles' and they were both very enthusiastic about the work proposed - and especially about the work needed on the vault! We are confident of support from them and other grant awarding bodies when we apply.

Proposed programme of work

Mary Whitlock, as Church Warden dealing with major building matters, was able to update the PCC about progress with faculties and the building work timetable that is consequent on these.

A *Work related to kitchen and second toilet*

The Faculty has been agreed, with only minor details to be clarified before this is granted. Christian Randall, the Clerk of Works, is going out to tender and work could start in the autumn.

B *The vault*

The need for the vault repair was identified in the Quinquennial Review of 2012. A structural engineer has been into the church to make a preliminary assessment of the vault and has advised that he can make a detailed inspection using an endoscope; this avoids having to open the vault at this stage. He is planning to carry out his investigation within six weeks and will then advise us of the detailed repair work needed. We hope very much that the proposed work will not risk disturbing any coffins: it will slow everything down a great deal if it does.

C *Removal of the organ, dealing with the vault, and redecorating*

We are now in sight of needing to remove the organ to be able to reinforce the vault and strengthen the vault cover, which cannot be done with the organ in place. Readers will remember that the current organ has been declared 'unfit' and certainly not worth being taken out and putting back. Once the organ has been removed, the church can be redecorated, that is once the dust and dirt of the building work has gone. The Faculty submission for the redecorating – more of a template to be confirmed than a full Faculty application – is in hand.

D *Installation of the new organ*

When all these works have been done, St Giles' will be in a position to install its new organ. Nicholas Prozzillo is working with the shortlisted organ builders to firm up costs so as to bring details to the Steering Group and to the PCC in the autumn, when we will update you further.

Plans for the autumn

There is much to do! During August and early September the Steering Group will be developing detailed plans to take the fundraising forward particularly trying to engage potential major supporters, devising an attractive events programme and pushing forward with the grants applications.

The building tenders will come in and the contracts will be placed for the kitchen, second toilet and associated work.

And the PCC should be in a position to select the organ.

There should be news to tell you regularly and we will do that. Please encourage us and please support us!

*Mary Whitlock, Churchwarden
Jonathan Mitchell and Veronica Warner,
Co-chairs, Project 900 Steering Group*

20/07/22

ST FRIDESWIDE PILGRIMAGE

It's coming up to that time of year again as we look forward to hosting the St Frideswide Pilgrimage from St Margaret's on **Saturday 15 October**.

It's a lovely afternoon, first meeting with other pilgrims in our church before starting to amble down beside the canal into town. Ours is the shortest route for the Frideswide Pilgrimage and we take things very slowly, stopping often for reflections and a hymn.

We then have tea and cake in Christ Church before heading to the Cathedral for a time of reflection using the Frideswide

prayer stations followed by a short service of thanksgiving at 5pm.

It was such a lovely, special time last year and we'd like to really encourage anyone interested to join us. For more info and to book, see <https://bit.ly/3qrBk60> (booking is essential – it makes sure you get tea and cake!).



BELL RINGING NEWS (2)

ON the morning of Saturday 6th August 2022, it was St Giles' turn to welcome bell ringers from other towers for one of a series of monthly practices arranged by the City Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. There were 14 ringers present, from Headington, Marston, Garsington, Iffley, St Aldate's, and Woodstock, as well as St Giles' - including five who had not rung on St Giles' bells before.

Rung for the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

On Sunday, 21 August 2022. in 2hrs 59mins

5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by James W Holdsworth

- 1 Sara Jones (First full peal)
- 2 Michele Winter
- 3 Catherine M A Lane
- 4 Alison T Merryweather-Clarke
- 5 Elizabeth A Barnes
- 6 Simon L Edwards
- 7 John G Pusey
- 8 Colin M Lee (Conductor)

We were particularly pleased to have in the band Colin Lee, who during the last year has been running a series of practices for young members of the Guild to prepare them to take part in a national contest; and Liz Barnes, who rang on several occasions at St Giles while up in Oxford as a student in the 1980's, and is now President of the Oxford University Society of Change Ringers.

We also recently successfully rang two quarter peals, after Sunday morning services, in both cases with bands made up half of St Giles' ringers and half of guests from other towers:

On 14th August, in 2 methods:
St Simon's and St Martin's Doubles

On 28th August, in 4 methods:
Reverse Canterbury, Grandsire, St Simon's, and Plain Bob Doubles
John Pusey

ST MARGARET'S COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The weather was on our side on a Saturday in August for our first ever community café. So much so that we decided to take the tables and chairs outside and enjoyed the shade of the trees in the church garden.



We served banana and apricot bread, strawberry yoghurt cake (one of Daniel's childhood recipes) and the ever favourite chocolate cake.

Several of our St Margaret's young people helped with washing up, taking orders and clearing the tables for over twenty of our friends and neighbours. We are looking forward to running our next Community Cafe on **Saturday 10th September at 3pm** to coincide with Ride and Stride and Oxford Open Doors. Hope to see you there then!





Join us for our Community Cafe at



St Margaret's Church

A place to connect with neighbours
old and new.

Everyone welcome to join us for tea,
cake and conversation.

Saturday 10th September, 3-5pm



BETTY MYRA COULDREY - 1st Oct 1932-28th July 2022

Betty's Life Story in her own words

(written at the request of Simon Stubbings, some years ago)

MY father, who worked in a bank, transferred to Oxford from a London branch, and he and my mother were married at Ss Philip & James Church. I was born in Middle Way (then called George Street), Summertown, and I had one sister, Audrée, who was three years older. We went to St Faith's Anglican Convent School, which was in a house almost opposite Canterbury Road – where Butler Close is now. (The School closed in 1960s and the convent is now the main building of St Antony's College.) I was confirmed at the Cathedral, during WW2.



After the end of the war, my father was promoted as Manager to a branch in Swindon. There was only one private school there, and it was full, so I had to go as a day girl to a sister school of St Faith's, in Cirencester. After one year in the Sixth Form, I decided to train as a physiotherapist – a choice I never regretted. It was a three-year diploma course and the training covered anatomy, physiology, pathology and the theory and practical use of exercise, massage and medical electricity. I trained in Bath, where I worked for five years after I qualified.

By this time my father had been moved to Woodstock, so I decided to move back to Oxford to be with them, and managed to get a job at the Radcliffe Infirmary.

Whilst in Woodstock, I learned to ring church bells, but did not get very far. I was present and rang, half-muffled bells when the then-Duchess of Marlborough died. I was also present and ringing when the bells were “fired”, that is when all the bells were rung together. I cannot remember what the occasion was, but have a feeling it was connected with the Prince of Wales. The last time I rang was on an Easter Sunday. We were ringing all eight bells and I was on No. 6, a fairly heavy bell, ringing behind (coming in behind

the other bells). The bell started to ring itself down into the “standing” position, and I was not strong enough to fight it. I was eventually lifted into the air for a good 3ft, whilst hanging onto the rope! The first thing you are taught is: “Do not leave go of the rope, whatever the problem” – it can lash around the ringing chamber and kill someone. When it had rung itself down and “stood”, the chap next door said “You managed that very well!”

I moved into Oxford before my parents left Woodstock and to begin with shared a flat with Audrée, who was working at the Radcliffe Infirmary as a Staff Nurse. In 1973 I became Superintendent of the Physio department and in 1979 moved with them to the new John Radcliffe hospital in Headington, where I remained until I retired. Sadly Audrée died of cancer soon after. At that time I had no known relatives, although I was aware there were some cousins on my father’s side, but 18 months later I was able to make contact with them when one of them was researching the Couldrey family tree and contacted me.

In retirement I have kept busy and done courses at Rewley House, eventually receiving a Certificate of Higher Education (Music) from the Vice Chancellor at the Sheldonian. I was also very involved with the National Trust, among other things.

A few months after my mother died, I decided that I needed to get back to attending a church regularly, so on Easter Sunday 1995 I walked into St Giles’. The church seemed full, and I felt very much alone; however, I persevered and eventually got to know people. Through St Giles’ I applied for a place on the Diploma in Biblical and Theological Studies part-time course at Wycliffe. It was quite an undertaking, but after two years I was presented with my certificate in the Sheldonian. During this time I became PCC Secretary (for six years), and was also Churchwarden. And in my spare time I knitted for The Gatehouse, and crocheted, as well as doing a baker’s dozen of kneelers for St Giles’.

A tribute to Betty

AFTER her funeral service in St Giles’ on Thursday 25th August 2022, Betty’s friends from work and church gathered in the Old Parsonage Hotel to celebrate our memories, helped by a cache of photographs sourced by Jim Smith. Betty would have been

pleased to find her funeral presided over by three members of the clergy - long-time vicar, Andrew Bunch; fresh incumbent, Daniel; and newly-appointed Associate Priest, Steve, who did not know Betty, but will have an idea of her spirit from the affectionate remembrances of her friends. Ben Simpson, widower of our previous beloved Associate Priest, and friend of Betty, Georgie Simpson, was also there, to see that Betty had the send-off she deserved.

The list of offices and functions Betty fulfilled in the church is indicative of the generation she belonged to - but most of all she loved St Giles' and served the church faithfully.



Jim, Betty, Sue and Joanne, 2018

Maureen Chu

PHIL & JIM SCHOOL: A PILGRIMAGE JOURNEY



It seems a little strange to be talking about endings as we are starting a new school year. However, our minds are very much with last year's Phil and Jim Year 6 leavers as they prepare for high school in a few weeks and we just wanted to share our pilgrimage journey that we took with them in July this year.

We're always trying to find ways to connect with our parish school, so in 2021, we started a new tradition of pilgrimages from St Margaret's Church. This year, with fewer covid restrictions, we were so excited to visit our Christ Church Cathedral here in Oxford.

The day started at school with the young people finding their own stone in a big pile. At Easter, they had all spent some time in church colouring in a stone with their hopes and dreams. We talked about how we all had hopes and dreams for our new schools, and

maybe some of these hopes and dreams had changed even from Eastertime. I invited the children to carry their stones on our journey, not just thinking of the dreams we wanted to take with us but also of those things we wanted to leave behind. Then it was time to set off.

Our journey took us back through history, learning first about St Margaret's back to St Philip and James Church (they loved seeing the old school) and back to what was their mother church of St Giles, before ending at the cathedral.



We were met by Philippa who is the Precentor. She told us a little about her job and even let one of the young people hold a thurible. She introduced us to Jim who was a big hit with everyone. He told us St Frideswide's story by getting everyone (including Daniel) up on their feet to act it out.

After our packed lunches on Christ Church meadow, we joined Philippa and Jamie, an ordinand from Wycliffe, who led the children in a guided reflection reminding us of all the people that walk with us on all our journeys of change.

The pilgrimage finished when we got back to the school with the children deciding whether they wanted to lay down their



stones to make a cairn. Did they want to leave some things behind or did they want to take them with them?

Daniel and I had a great time spending time alongside the staff and children on this little journey. We're looking forward to doing it all again next year!

Congratulations Corner



Congratulations to all our young people who received their exam results this summer. We are so proud of you. You have worked so hard, in a hugely challenging time, and done your very best. We look forward to hearing all your plans for the future.



Congratulations to Beth Fairbairn who is taking a gap year before University, and has just started working at St Paul's Cathedral School as a chaperone to the choristers. She is excited to be working in such a beautiful place full of beautiful music.

Congratulations to Benji Grønlie, who won the national ORA singers composition competition 2022 back in July! The chair of judges was John Rutter – who can be seen with Benji in the photo to the right.

You can hear Benji's composition being performed on the St Giles' website at <https://bit.ly/3zlt4UI>

