



AN ECUMENICAL GROUP OF CHURCHES: ST. AUGUSTINE'S, ST. GILES' WITH ST PETER'S, ST. LUKE'S (URC & Anglican), CASTLE ST. METHODIST, ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST (Romanian Orthodox at St. Giles')

*Churchatcastle is an ecumenical group of churches  
St Augustine's, St Giles', St Luke's (URC & Anglican), Castle St Methodist,  
St John the Evangelist (Romanian Orthodox at St Giles')*

# ASCENSION NEWS

## JULY 2020

The Monthly Magazine from Church at Castle

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## BROTHER VIRUS?

*'Praise be you, my Lord, with all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day and through whom you give us light.'* So goes the Cantic to Brother Sun by St Francis of Assisi. If the Lord be praised for all his creatures, would St Francis praise Him today for Brother Virus and Sister Bacteria?



The question is not as silly as it may seem: in the 6<sup>th</sup> of March edition of the Church Times, The Revd Dr Gray reminds us that viruses play a positive part in nature. Some of them eat bacteria, for starters, and so contribute to the balance of the earth's ecosystem. Many of them live in our gut and on our skin and help us to remain in good health. She invites us to look at the bigger picture: as a natural part of God's good creation, viruses are important for the cycles of death and decay. Only a tiny proportion of them can cause human disease.

The present pandemic of Covid-19 forces us to reflect on our own frail humanity. It reminds us of our own mortality, but also of our interconnectedness: if we take serious precautions, give a friendly wave instead of a kiss, and even self-isolate, we protect ourselves, but more importantly, we protect others. We put others first. It makes sense, doesn't it. We are all precious in the eyes of God. And seeing others with the eyes of God is the challenge of God's love to which we are again exposed at this time.

Safe in the knowledge that God loves us beyond measure, let us all take care of each other in prayer and action, and let us praise the Lord for His infinite grace.

*Marie Lucchetta Redmond*

## **The Canticle to Brother Sun**

Most High, all powerful, good Lord,  
yours are the praises, the glory, the honour and all blessing.  
To you alone, Most High, do they belong and no human is  
worthy to mention your name.

Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures,  
especially Sir Brother Sun,  
who is the day and through whom you give us light.  
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour;  
and bears a likeness of you, Most High One.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars:  
in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind;  
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of  
weather,  
through which you give sustenance to your creatures.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water,  
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Fire,  
through whom you light the night:  
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth,  
who sustains and governs us  
and who produces various fruit  
with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praised be you, my Lord,  
through those who give pardon for your love  
and bear infirmity and tribulation.  
Blessed are those who endure in peace  
for by you, Most High, shall they be crowned.

Praised be you, my Lord, for our Sister, Bodily Death,  
from whom no one living can escape:  
woe to those who die in mortal sin.  
Blessed are those whom death will find  
in your most holy will,  
for the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord and give him thanks  
and serve him with great humility.



## RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC SUNDAY SERVICES

Dear Everyone,

You are probably already aware that, due to the relaxation of the lockdown restrictions, 'in church' services can now be held, as long as they comply with current government coronavirus guidelines. So in July, each church in the parish will be holding a communion service on successive Sundays at their usual service times; St Luke's 10.30am on 12<sup>th</sup> July, St Giles' 9am on 19<sup>th</sup> July and St Augustine's 9.30am on the 26<sup>th</sup> July.

Anyone is welcome to attend any of these services.

For the purposes of assisting with the government's contact tracing system, churches and other organisations have been asked to keep a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of those attending. Please could you let Sheila know if you are intending to come to those services, either via email: [officeatcastle@btinternet.com](mailto:officeatcastle@btinternet.com) or by leaving a message on the parish office answerphone, 01223 315000, which Sheila monitors regularly. If you are unable to respond by email or phone in advance, we are requested to collect your details when you arrive at church. These records will be kept for 21 days and then destroyed.

Please be aware that each church has a much reduced seating capacity due to the 2 metres social distancing requirements. Church services will be streamed via Zoom as they happen so if you would prefer to join in that way then please do so using the usual Zoom invitations.

It is a welcome development that the churches are open again but the threat of Covid-19 infection still remains, so please do not feel that you 'should' attend in person, especially if you are in a vulnerable category or are shielding. Whether or not we are

physically present with one another, we remain the family of the church and part of the body of Christ. We will do everything we can to make the churches as safe a place as possible for those who would like to come. We will maintain social distancing and there will be a new system of moving around the church. This will be explained to you on arrival.

For those of you who consider that staying at home is the best option, all service resources will continue to be offered as they are currently, via the website, by email or by post.

If you have any concerns then please do contact either of us and we will be happy to talk with you.

*Philipa and Janet*

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### **FOODBANK DONATIONS AT ST AUGUSTINE'S**

This is a big thank you to all those who contributed to the Foodbank collection at St Augustine's.

An enormous amount of food was given, so much so that I fell over it several times whilst trying to negotiate my hallway! Simon's trusty Landrover (which collects weekly and delivers the donations to the Foodbank) was packed to the roof.

It shows how much the recent letter from



CCSA (Castle Covid Support Association) delivered around the ward raised the profile about food concerns in the city due to the economic effects of the lockdown and how well residents in Castle Ward responded. But this is going to be an ongoing need and so please do continue to donate the food so many rely on.

St Augustine's front porch is open Saturday and Sunday afternoons between 2 and 5pm, and on Monday mornings from 9am to 11am. Any donations outside those times can be left on my doorstep (95 Richmond Road).

*Rev Janet Bunker*

PS: The Land Rover which collects donations from the St Augustine's and Eddington Sainsbury's donation points was full to the front seat this week. Thanks to all for your generous donations and to Simon Stoddart and Karen Wiemer for collecting and delivering the donations to the Cambridge Foodbank weekly.

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## STILL A SMILE FROM ST GILES'



The wall of St Giles' churchyard has not been altered since over a century ago, when Chesterton Lane was widened. But there's

been a smiley in it on Castle Street for the past year due to a parking overrun, and it has at last been repaired by the city council. We persuaded the council to do the repair because at its creation the civil parish took over repair and maintenance of walls and fences of churchyards that had been closed to new burials.

Simultaneously, we have asked the same craftsmen, the Gaskin brothers, to install bollards to prevent a recurrence, and to lower the wall for better visibility at the Castle Street entrance. We are not done yet, for example Greater Cambridge Conservation continues to check we are taking care with brickwork finish and with the lovely row of lime trees.

The Friends of St Giles' Church have stepped forward generously to fund these safety improvements so as not to impact parish reserves.



A gentler brighter smiley remains, because the traditional lime mortar will take time to tone down and because some of the replaced bricks are less darkened by a century's pollution.

We have had compliments from passers-by, from our congregation, and even from the council.

The Castle Street entrance seems more inviting now, with its unimpeded view of the church that was built at the same time as the wall.

*Richard Catchpole*

**And another 'smile':** *Richard comments that 'St Giles' must for long have welcomed Cambridge techies, as Wikipedia notes a "Monument (early 17c.), commemorating Nicholas Carr, appointed the University's second Regius Professor of Geek in 1547".'*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St\\_Giles%27\\_Church,\\_Cambridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Giles%27_Church,_Cambridge)

**I would like to add one more smile**, this one for Richard himself - for all the time, knowledge and effort he has put in in getting the right faculties, permissions and whatever else was needed before we could even start considering engaging the builders to start the repairs. In his own meticulous and careful way he has patiently worked behind the scenes until he was sure that the rebuilding could go ahead and be successful in the way it so clearly is. Thank you Richard for all you have done to make this possible.



*Ank, and all at St Giles'*

## PETER AND PAUL, 29<sup>th</sup> June and 'The Joy of Being Wrong'

*Tom Ambrose has shared some thoughts on the Feast of St Peter and St Paul, which is celebrated by the parish in St Peter's church on 26<sup>th</sup> June every year, though sadly not this year.*

*Tom prefaced his reflection by saying: "When I wrote about Peter and Paul I had imagined that the thoughts might appear, whether on line or in the magazine, to fit with 29<sup>th</sup> June. However, the common thread between these leading apostles that both preached and wrote having experienced 'The Joy of Being Wrong' (the title of James Alison's 1998 book) is not just for a single day. It is central to the Christian faith. So please accept what I wrote as it is, and I shall enlarge on some of the implications next month."*

It may seem curious that Peter and Paul, the greatest of the apostles, have to share this feast day when some of the less well-known followers of Jesus get a day all to themselves. There is a reason. The tradition is that both were martyred in Rome on this day, so we remember them together.

But we often want to separate them out. Petertide for us marks the season for ordinations, and here we are celebrating the patronal festival of St. Peter's Church. The Norman archway and the fabulous font witness to the fact that this was a parish church long before the university of Cambridge existed. Clustered around the castle on the hill, and stretching down to the river crossing, this was the heart of Cambridge. Today we remember Peter here.

So, on this very day, what of Paul? Two years ago Gill and I went with my brother Ivor, who lives in Greece to the ruins of ancient Corinth. There, we found, on this day they remember Paul. Today, at this very hour, (our service was at 6 pm) in the ruins of the ancient city of Corinth, it is St. Paul who is remembered in a service of solemn vespers led by the bishop in the open air.

Paul had lived and worked here with leather workers and tent makers, with whom he shared his faith in the synagogue. But this provoked a disagreement, and some of the synagogue members brought him to be tried before the Roman governor.



The site of the trial would have been the large raised marble platform, the Bema, which still dominates the centre of the Forum. What took place there could have turned out like Jesus' trial before Pilate, with an angry mob yelling for Paul's execution on grounds of heresy. But, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles (Ch 18, verses 12-17) , Gallio, the governor, wanted no part in what he considered to be an internal Jewish argument. Paul lived to fight, and write, another day. So, at this rostrum, this evening, the Greeks of Corinth are, with their bishop, celebrating the Great Vespers in honour of Paul.

What interests me today, on this feast day of Peter and Paul is not the differences and individualities of these great characters, about whom we know so much from the New Testament. What I would like to celebrate today is one of their chief similarities, which, as you will soon realise, is the title of one of my favourite

theological books. The book is called 'The Joy of Being Wrong'. It may sound like a contradiction in terms to say, 'The Joy of Being Wrong', but in fact we know more about the wrongdoing of Peter and Paul than of any other saints in scripture.

Peter, having started well by seeing that Jesus is the Christ, thinks he has to turn Jesus away from Jerusalem and is rebuked in the words 'Get behind me, Satan.' But he tries again, and then, most famously, boasts at the Last Supper that he will never desert Jesus. He is then told that he will do so three times, before the cock crows to announce the dawn. The unforgettable image of Peter with the accusing cockerel has inspired artists from earliest times. And, if we accept the tradition that Mark's gospel is in fact a digest of Peter's sermons, Peter glories in telling us how many times he got it wrong. Think of the storm on Galilee. There was Peter, with the other disciples, scared stiff and begging Jesus to wake up. It doesn't do the big fisherman much credit, does it? No. It's again the joy of admitting he was wrong.

Paul, as the pious Pharisee Saul, had thought he was doing right in persecuting the early Christian Church. The story of his wrongdoing, followed by his seeing a vision whilst on the way to Damascus, is told three times over in the Acts of the Apostles, and also by Paul himself in his letter to the Galatians.

Both Peter and Paul know 'The Joy of Being Wrong', or rather the joy of admitting they were wrong and discovering God's forgiveness. For this reason I am happy to admit that I feel closer to these saints than to many others whose lives seem so perfect and untarnished by sin. God uses sinners to do his work. For as Jesus had said when he told his parable of the two debtors, the one with a trifling debt and the one with a massive burden, it is the debtor who has been forgiven most who will love the lender more. The love which Peter and Paul showed, taking the good news to the very heart of the Roman empire at the risk of their lives, founded Christianity as a world religion.

At its heart is the realisation that God is Love. God is love and God forgives. He forgives, and when we realise how much we are loved and forgiven, he empowers us to do his work.

Following Peter and Paul let us admit our faults, and then, in the strength of that forgiveness, go on doing the work of God. It isn't at all the way of the world. Make a mistake, in government, in business, in anything, and there are cries for resignations and sackings. And those who take over afterwards are then frozen into inactivity because the fear of going wrong is greater than the challenge of seizing the opportunity to do good.

Jesus will have none of this. He takes people like us, earthen vessels, and makes us his people. He remakes us in his image. He calls us out of darkness to live his marvellous light.

Today, on this feast of Peter, we live in the strength which the risen Christ gave to him, 'Whosoever's sins you forgive, they are forgiven'. Released from the power of their sins, Peter and Paul were freed to obey the command to 'feed my sheep'.

Today, knowing the joy of being wrong and being released from our sins, let us rejoice in God's forgiveness, rejoice in his love, and rejoice to share that love with all.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS



### **CITIZEN SCIENCE SURVEY – your chance to take part**

Cambridge has many, magnificent horse chestnut trees, that scatter autumnal treasures every year for children to collect –glossy brown conkers. Some trees

stand alone, like the one in St Peter's churchyard, and some provide a shady avenue like those that line Victoria Avenue or the Backs, but they have all been under attack from a leaf-mining moth, which has spread across much of the UK since 2002, and their new Spring leaves gradually become speckled with brown spots that increase in size throughout the summer. This summer, Conker Tree Science is again inviting citizens across the country to take part in a survey to see what has changed since their first survey in 2010. Full instructions on how to do so are on their website, but you will have to get started before 13<sup>th</sup> July.

<http://www.conkertreescience.org.uk/>

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## **WORSHIP AND PRAYER RESOURCES ONLINE**

Downloadable service and worship resources are kept up-to-date on the Church at Castle website

<http://www.churchatcastle.org/node/2965>

Bishop of Huntingdon, Dagmar Winter, records her reflections for each Sunday on the Diocese of Ely's Youtube channel or it can be viewed from the Diocese's website,

<https://www.elydiocese.org/about/news-jobs-and-events/news/>

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## **OUR SERVICES ONLINE**

**You are welcome to join all and any of these services. Resources are on our website – <http://www.churchatcastle.org/node/2965>**

### **SUNDAYS**

- St Giles' Morning service, 9 am

A Sunday Eucharist using Zoom, Common Worship. Send an email to [ank1@btinternet.com](mailto:ank1@btinternet.com) to receive an invitation.

- St Augustine's Morning Service, 9.30 am  
A Service of the Word via Zoom. Common Worship. Send an email to [janet\\_ascension@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janet_ascension@yahoo.co.uk) to receive an invitation and the order of service.

**MONDAYS** – Compline, 6 pm

A service of Night Prayer. Common Worship. Send an email to [rectoratcastle@btinternet.com](mailto:rectoratcastle@btinternet.com) to receive an invitation.

**WEDNESDAYS** – Morning Prayer, Book of Common Prayer. 10 am  
Send an email to [rectoratcastle@btinternet.com](mailto:rectoratcastle@btinternet.com) to receive an invitation.

**THURSDAYS** – Coffee and chat, 10 am

Send an email to [ank1@btinternet.com](mailto:ank1@btinternet.com) to receive an invitation.

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## FOR CHILDREN

Faith at Home is a national campaign by the Church of England, to support the faith development and pastoral care of children and young people.



Why the home? Home is both a place and feeling. It is where we eat, where we sleep, where we find ourselves at the start and end of our day. Home is where we can feel the strongest sense of belonging, where we can feel connected to 'our people', where we can feel part of 'our tribe'. It can also be a place of doubt, questions, loneliness and fear. While talking about being the vine, Jesus invites us to be at home in him, as he is at home in us (John 15:1-4). We are invited to imagine that we are sharing our everyday lives with each other and with God, intertwined by love as a community of growing faith.

There is a series of weekly YouTube videos for children of all ages and for parents and families :

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/faith-home/faith-homevideos>

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## IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE INTERNET

### FREE HYMNS & PRAYERS ON YOUR TELEPHONE



This is an excellent national initiative for those who are especially isolated:

A free national phoneline **Daily HOPE** will be available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**

Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop of Canterbury before being able to choose from a range of options, including Prayer during the Day and Night Prayer updated daily from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England's weekly national online service. An option called **Hymn Line** will also offer callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily.

### WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR EVERYONE

We have been sending out liturgical resources each Sunday for people to use at home. If you would like a printed copy of any prayers, hymns or services please ring Philipa (07967 196560)

As a ministry team we are undertaking to telephone those who would like to say the service with someone else and share the liturgy with them. If you would like one of us to share the service with you or know of someone else who doesn't have technology who might appreciate it, then please let Philipa know - ring 07967 196560. Equally, contact her if you feel able to take the lead role in sharing.

# LOCKDOWN (and Easing Up) GALLERY

St Augustine's – closed at Easter and now re-opened as a hub for generous Foodbank donations





A highly recommended personal shopper



Turning sheets and duvets into scrubs



Just enjoying the sky



If you have photos you'd like to share in the magazine, please send them to Sheila, <[office@churchatcastle.org](mailto:office@churchatcastle.org)>

## NOTICES

- The current St Luke's Quarterly Giving, July to September, is **Barnado's**, the British charity founded in 1866 by Thomas Barnado to care for vulnerable children. Today that work with at risk and vulnerable children, young people and their families continues, with extra resources in place to help them with the impact of the current coronavirus pandemic. You may wish to give online at <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/> or set money aside weekly until it can be collected by the church treasurer.

- It would be good to hear news about people, and of what you are doing for and in your communities practically and creatively. We will try to reflect this in the next magazine.

Send your news via email to: [office@churchatcastle.org](mailto:office@churchatcastle.org) or post to Janet Bunker, 95 Richmond Road, Cambridge, CB4 3PS

- **Boost parish funds when you shop online**

The Parish of the Ascension has been a registered charity for one year, and has joined the Give as You Live scheme. This means that anyone can now donate to the Ascension Parish funds, at no extra cost to themselves, whenever they are shopping online. Don't forget to click on the Give as You Live icon on your browser when starting to shop and select the Parish of the Ascension. Our registered charity name is long - *The PCC Of The Ecclesiastical Benefice Of The Ascension, Cambridge (St. Giles with St. Peter, St. Luke And St. Augustine)* - so here is a shortcut to sign up:

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/ascensionparishcambridge>



- Traidcraft's online shop has a wide range of Fair Trade and ethical goods - basic foodstuffs, household and fashion items, including these masks, made in Guatemala

<https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/>



- If you would like to have the Ascension News delivered to someone electronically or as a print copy, please send the details to [office@churchatcastle.org](mailto:office@churchatcastle.org) or phone 01223 223774
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## WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE MINISTRY TEAM AND CHURCH COUNCILLORS

### Ministry Team

Team Rector Philipa King, 2 Stretten Avenue, CB4 3EP c315000

Team Vicar Janet Bunker, 95 Richmond Rd., CB4 3PS c 229976

URC Minister Charles Mather 01954 277119

Asst. Priest Ank Rigelsford, 19 Clare St. CB4 3BY, c 368150

Asst. Priest Tom Ambrose 01223 858994

Retired Priest Owen Spencer Thomas

LLM Margaret Cooper 01223 354561

LLM Marie Lucchetta Redmond 01223 277934

ALM (*Pastoral*) Sue Mudie 01223 367194

ALM (*Children*) Gill Ambrose 01223 858994

### Churchwardens

**S Augustine** Gill Mead-357431, Mark Wills-229976

**S Giles** Arthur Hibble-367239,

Richard Catchpole-07736 070907

**S Luke** Paul Gibbs-356341

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## ONLINE

**ChurchatCastle:** [www.churchatcastle.org](http://www.churchatcastle.org),

**Twitter** [@churchatcastle](https://twitter.com/churchatcastle)

**St. Augustine's:** <https://stas.org.uk>,

**Twitter** [@stascambridge](https://twitter.com/stascambridge)

**The Friends of St. Giles' Church:** <https://www.fosgc.org>

**St. Giles':** <https://www.facebook.com/saintgileschurch>

# GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Ascension Parish Office Parish Administrator: Sheila Rozeik  
Email: [office@churchatcastle.org](mailto:office@churchatcastle.org)  
Post: St. Giles' Church, Castle Street, Cambridge, CB3 0AQ  
Telephone: 01223 315000, 01223 223774

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