



**Church
at
Castle**

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

AUGUST 2020

The Monthly Magazine from Church at Castle

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THE JOY OF BEING WRONG–part 2

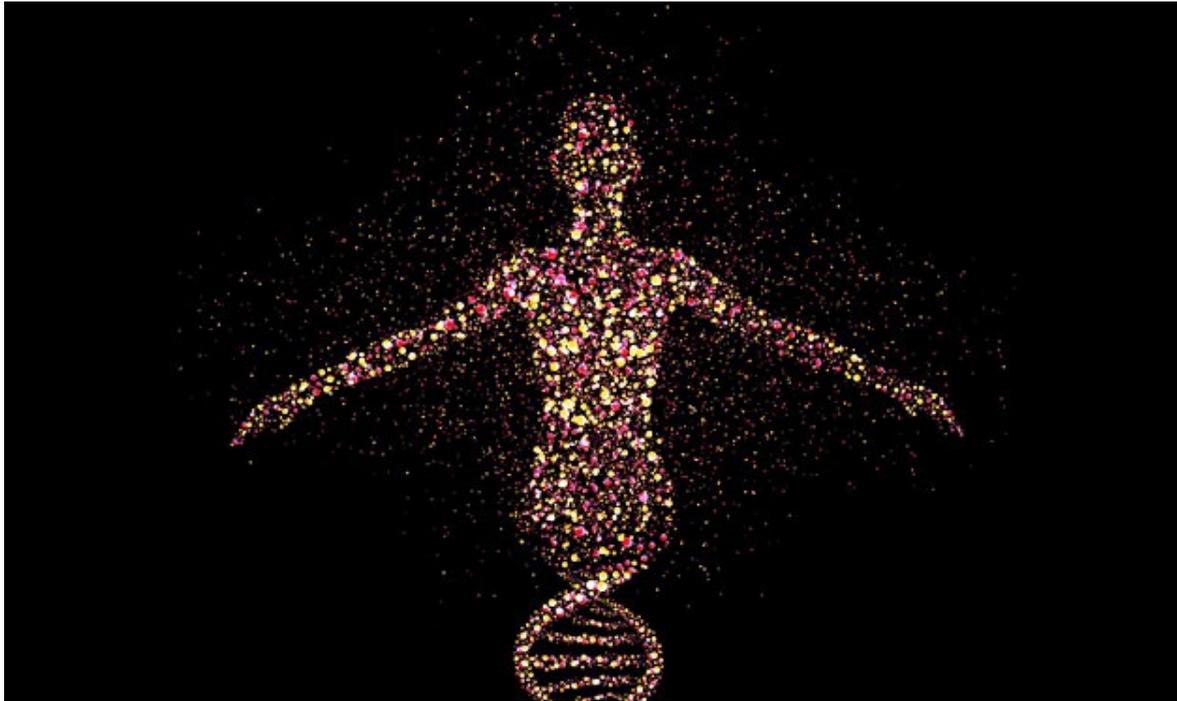
I mentioned the somewhat unlikely title of this book, ‘The joy of being wrong’, when I wrote about Peter and Paul in July’s magazine. One of the things they have in common is a confession of going wrong, and of recognising their mistakes. They are not unique.

The most memorable book by one of the theologians of the early church is Saint Augustine’s ‘Confessions’, in which he describes his youth as a pagan before coming to Christianity as an adult. The very title of this autobiographical book expresses the joy he found in being able to admit he had been wrong in his search for God. He rejected pagan religions and found faith as a Christian. And he describes how hard it was to give up his sinful life. Indeed, he constantly wrote that it just isn’t possible to be perfectly good all the time.

We keep going wrong all our lives. St. Paul writes, (Romans 7) *‘When I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.’*

We can see what we ought to do, but don’t do it. And for this reason, people have imagined that God, who is perfect, must have created a perfect world without any ‘mistakes’ but that later it went wrong. This ‘going wrong’ came to be known as ‘The Fall’ and people have imagined there was an original perfection. But modern science reveals that this isn’t so. Random change, ‘going wrong’, has always happened, and without this nothing new could ever have happened in the whole of the 14 billion years that the universe has existed.

Many people of faith, not just Christians, are disturbed by the idea from scientists that changes, and evolution, appear to be just random. They ask ‘Why would the creator choose such an inefficient and unthinking method as randomness to drive creation? Doesn’t it make God look like a bad engineer?’



In a paper presented to the Faraday Institute in Cambridge, the physicist Prof. Russell Cowburn presented an alternative view.

- Without random energy fluctuations, the universe would be cold. There would be no stars, no evolution, and no life. Everything we know springs from randomness. It isn't an afterthought but is central to the nature of the universe.
- The heart of physics is quantum mechanics which studies randomness. The best engineers harness this randomness to make many essential tools, including steel, transformers and nuclear reactors.

In short, the entire universe has been random and hence 'going wrong' since the beginning of time. There never was any kind of perfection and never will be. From the moment the first living organism emerged it was, 'going wrong'. This failure to reproduce exactly is precisely what allowed all the myriad life forms on earth to appear.

So, whilst a reading of Genesis might suggest that 'going wrong' is what got Adam and Eve thrown out of the Garden of Eden, this interpretation of the story is founded on a mistake

about the whole nature of creation. 'Going wrong' is central to all life: a child learns to walk by falling down and correcting the mistakes of overbalancing.

Jesus understood this perfectly from the very outset of his ministry. When he heals a paralysed man whose friends lowered him through the roof of a house he says 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Later, Jesus deliberately calls a tax collector, someone known to be 'sinner' because of the way he makes his money, to be a disciple. We are then told that *'When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax-collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax-collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."*' Mark 2.16-17. Nobody is without sin. Jesus calls people who admit they go wrong and try to do better.

We should apply this understanding to our present situation. We can't expect political leaders or health professionals to get it right every time. The threat from the virus was completely unknown, and indeed, seems to have been concealed in the country where it first emerged. No-one could know perfectly what to do. We need to recognise this. What we and our leaders should do is admit to making mistakes and learn from them. That is the only way we can save not only ourselves but the whole human race. We all need to find 'the joy of being wrong', admit our failings and try to do better. That, for Peter and Paul, Augustine, health officials and politicians, for all of us everywhere, is what God calls us to do.

Tom Ambrose

The joy of being wrong, James Alison, Herder and Herder, 1998
Making sense of randomness in the physical world, lecture by
Prof Russell Cowburn FRS

<https://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/resources/multimedia/making-sense-of-randomness-in-the-physical-world/>

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

UPDATE FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE: Parish services during August and September

In the face of rapid changes in Covid-19 guidelines and advice from central government and the Church of England, the Churchwardens and Philipa and Janet, as those with legal office, have been meeting on a regular basis to jointly consider the latest advice, action and risk assessments required to operate safely as a parish. At the most recent meeting the pattern of Sunday worship for August and September was discussed and agreed. This pattern takes into account a number of issues; the risk factors associated with physical gathering for worship especially for those who are in vulnerable groups and for those leading worship, the reduced capacities of our buildings and the increased burden on cleaning and cleaners.

By continuing online services alongside those in church buildings, we aim for our worship to be as inclusive as possible, especially for those who are unable to attend services in person, now and for some time to come.

In addition to these services, which anyone may attend, members of the team will offer an online service by Zoom from the other two churches in which the main Sunday service is not occurring. Small groups of up to five people from those in the vulnerable/extremely vulnerable group will be able to attend these additional services should they wish to do so. This is intended to be inclusive, offering those who have been shielding an opportunity to be part of a much smaller group in which to begin to participate in a physical act of worship.

Alongside Sunday worship the following mid-week Zoom services will be offered: Compline on Mondays at 6.00 pm, Morning prayer on Wednesdays at 9.30 am. For details of how

to join these services via Zoom please go to page 14 of this magazine.

Philipa and Janet will continue to meet regularly with the churchwardens to review and plan for future services in the light of Covid-19 infection rates and government/church advice available at the time.

The pattern of Sunday public worship is tabled below. These services will be at the normal Sunday morning time for that church; 9am for St Giles, 9.30 am for St Augustine's and 10.30 am for St Luke's.

Sunday 9th August at St Giles'

Sunday 16th August at St Augustine

Sunday 23rd August at St Giles'

Sunday 30th August at St Luke

Sunday 6th September at St Giles'

Sunday 13th September at St Augustine

Sunday 20th September at St Luke; St Luke's Anniversary service

Sunday 27th September at St Giles'

There is a parish-wide system for booking and recording who attends physical services in order to assist with the NHS Test and Trace system.

If you wish to attend one of these services in person, please contact Sheila Rozeik by phone or email beforehand so that she can prepare a register and check the numbers wishing to attend a particular Sunday service. Tel: 01223 315000/223774,
Email: office@churchatcastle.org

ST GILES' OPEN FOR PRAYER

We have kept St Giles open for an hour each day except Sundays for 6 weeks now. This facility has been greatly appreciated by

visitors. It has been decided that we continue with the current system, that is, two volunteer stewards to supervise the hour, to maintain the safety of the church and furnishing, and record visitor details for the NHS Test and Trace system.

The church is fully equipped with sanitizer, spray, wipes, and masks, and set up in a clearly sign-posted, safely distanced layout.

Richard Catchpole and I are looking for additional volunteers to keep the church open as much as possible during August and September. If you think you can help please get in touch to see if you can fill some of the gaps in the rota. Tel: 01223 367239, Email: hibbla@virginmedia.com

Arthur Hibble



RIDE & STRIDE

Michael Bloy will be taking part in the annual Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust sponsored Ride & Stride on Saturday 12th September. Half of the money raised will go to St Giles' (& the other half to the Trust). If you would like to sponsor him, please contact him on 01223 355686 or michael.bloy@yahoo.co.uk

Ride & Stride is a sponsored event for cyclists, joggers, walkers and horse riders. Participants challenge themselves to visit as many churches as they can by their chosen mode of transport and at the same time raise money to support the work of the Trust. Full details are at: <https://camhct.uk/rideandstride/>



ELY CATHEDRAL REOPENS TO VISITORS

On the cathedral website The Very Revd Mark Bonney writes: “It is over three months since we closed the doors to the Cathedral as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak, and in accordance with the latest guidance from the Government and the Church of England, we are delighted to be re-opening the building.

We are now fully open for anyone wishing to visit this beautiful building, In order to comply with social distancing guidelines we are asking people to [book tickets in advance](#) of their visit online as we are limiting the number of people who can access the building at any one time. There are several other safety measures in place. Cathedral staff, guides and volunteers will be on hand to ensure you have a enjoyable experience.

Entrance is via the West Door (main entrance) only and open to visitors from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday.

The Cathedral continues to offer public worship every Sunday for the 10.30am Eucharist. Due to current guidance, and to ensure the wellbeing of our participants and congregation, the Cathedral will only be open for worship on Sunday and therefore closed to visitors. If you would like to attend the Sunday service please click [here](#) for further information.

For now, we thank you for your patience and support and we look forward to welcoming you back into the Cathedral.”

<https://www.elycathedral.org/visit>

<https://youtu.be/Xa50ZznH5lk>

Cathedral Pass Holders

Those with Cathedral passes do not need to book tickets online but please have your passes with you when you visit. Don't worry if your pass is now out-of-date - it will be accepted as valid.

The cathedral is also running a series of enjoyable events outside for adults and children which you can check out here:

<https://www.elycathedral.org/events>

Sheila Rozeik



ST LUKE'S CHURCH CENTRE

The office will be reopening from Monday 10th August, for two hours on weekdays, between 10 am to 12 noon, where Heather Taplin will make a much welcomed return.

THE FORGOTTEN ARMY, and why VE Day was not the end of the war

"I know you think of yourselves as the Forgotten Army. Well, let me tell you, you're not forgotten ... nobody even knows you're here!" Lord Louis Mountbatten, 1943

As I walked down Histon Road on the 8th of May, several of the residents were in their front gardens having their own little socially distanced celebrations of the 75th anniversary of VE Day, Victory in Europe Day. They had Union Jacks, bunting and balloons. Champagne corks were popped. Vera Lynn songs played in the background.

They greeted me as I walked past and wished me a Happy VE Day. I don't begrudge them their celebrations and I didn't wish

be a killjoy, so I smiled and nodded, but I don't celebrate VE Day. On the 8th of May 1945, the war *in Europe* ended, but my Dad, and the rest of the Forgotten Army, were still in India and Burma. The war was not over. The Japanese were a respected, courageous and tenacious enemy. VJ Day, Victory over Japan Day, was not until the 15th August 1945.

The 14th Army were forgotten, or not known about, then and are still being forgotten today. Last year, there were huge celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings (6 June, 1944), but I looked in vain for any commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Battles of Kohima and Imphal. Those battles were a turning point in the war against the Japanese. In 1944, the newspapers were so full of D Day that South East Asia was barely mentioned and this was repeated in 2019 in the press coverage and celebrations.

This year, many celebrations were planned for VE Day and unfortunately had to be cancelled, but I doubt if people will be hanging out the bunting and drinking fizz in their front gardens on VJ Day.

My Dad, Gunner Ray Blake, joined the Territorial Army in 1938, at the age of 17, so he was one of the first to be mobilised in 1939. He was on the anti aircraft guns defending London at the beginning of the War and in



1941, he was sent to Sierra Leone. The photograph shows him (second from left) on leave in Johannesburg, South Africa. He was just 21 and had been in the army for 4 years.

After that leave, he was sent to Burma and did not see England again until 1945. He had not yet met my mother and I was but a twinkle in his eye, but a married man leaving a pregnant wife would have come home to a small child he'd never met. No Skype or Zoom calls in those days, not even a phone call.

My Dad was proud to serve in the 14th Army under General (later Field Marshall) Bill Slim. He had the Burma Star. The 14th Army consisted of British troops and many others including Indians, Gurkhas and West African Divisions. There were about a million men out there, yet we forget them.

Please join with me (in spirit if not in person) on the 15th of August and raise a glass to the Forgotten Army in celebration of VJ Day and in memory of the fallen.

“When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today”
Kohima Epitaph

Vanessa Blake

COMMUNITY NEWS

CAPTURING CAMBRIDGE

<https://capturingcambridge.org/>

The Museum of Cambridge is planning to re-open in August, but during their closure they have created some wonderful online resources for their ongoing community history projects.



The Capturing Cambridge project offers resources for exploring and contributing to the communal stories of Cambridge's streets, buildings and past lives via an interactive map. Maybe you could find out something interesting about who lived in your house or street, or the story of institutions like Harvey Goodwin Home for Waifs and Strays, or view the postcards received by Fanny Wrench, a cook who lived at 83 Histon Road.

WESSEX PLACE CUT THROUGH

Early this year, following concerns about the sale of the Shire Hall site, residents started an ePetition entitled "Protect Wessex Place Cut Through", to keep open the footpath that runs between Magrath Avenue and Shire Hall, giving access to Castle Street. <http://bit.ly/wessexplace> This permissive path is used by many daily.



Artist Pam Smy produced some wonderful graphic artwork that was on display in St Giles before lockdown.

Cllr Mac McGuire of the County Council has responded in a recent letter, to clarify the status of the path and the council's intentions.

"This petition has been reviewed and the following

response has been offered:

Given that a related question was raised by Dr Lesley Dee in February 2019, and that issues around Shire Hall site access have been discussed regularly at previous Council meetings, I

will respond to the petition in a relatively brief way.

The County Council sold the site of 35 Magrath Avenue on 31st March 1989 to Granta Housing, who subsequently sold the site to Trinity College. The 1989 transfer required Granta to build a cycle path and a footpath to Shire Hall, and preserve rights for the County Council and its successors to use them. It should be noted that the creation of a public right of way was not intended, and the transfer stated that the Right of Way may be closed once a year to ensure that a public Right of Way was not created. Trinity College have erected signs to that effect.

Over the 30 years since, the access path has regularly been used by members of the public, County Council staff and occupiers of the Trinity College buildings, but I reiterate that this is not a public Right of Way.

The County Council is not planning to sell the site and the permissive rights, personal to the Council, remain as originally intended.

Creating a public access is in the gift of Trinity College and the County Council is limited in what it can do. The County Council has written to Trinity College, through their agent Bidwells, four times asking to explore the option of upgrading the permissive access. They have recently re-confirmed that they were not willing to upgrade the right to a public right of way due to anti-social confrontations between cyclist and pedestrians/vehicles. They fully understand the Council's permissive rights to the Shire Hall site.

Whilst understanding the wishes of local residents for the County Council to secure the access as a public right of way, this is not possible without the agreement of Trinity College. However, as we are not disposing of the freehold of the site, our permissive rights remain unfettered.”

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/>

OUR SERVICES ONLINE ON ZOOM

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
Send an email to ank1@btinternet.com to receive an invitation.

- St Augustine's Morning Service, 9.30 am
Send an email to janet_ascension@yahoo.co.uk to receive an invitation and the order of service.

- St Luke's Morning Service, 10.30 am
Send an email to pipking@btinternet.com to receive an invitation

MONDAYS – Compline, 6 pm

A service of Night Prayer. Common Worship. Send an email to pipking@btinternet.com to receive an invitation.

WEDNESDAYS – Morning Prayer, Book of Common Prayer. 10 am

Send an email to pipking@btinternet.com to receive an invitation.

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-home-videos>

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 phonenumber **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.

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.

- **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>

- 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 or post to Janet Bunker, 95 Richmond Road, Cambridge, CB4 3PS

- 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 or phone 01223 223774

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

ONLINE

ChurchatCastle: www.churchatcastle.org,

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

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

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

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

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

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Ascension Parish Office Parish Administrator: Sheila Rozeik

Email: office@churchatcastle.org

Post: St. Giles' Church, Castle Street, Cambridge, CB3 0AQ

Telephone: 01223 315000, 01223 223774



PLAYDAZE 2020

FREE ONLINE ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES



**THERE IS NO REASON TO BE BORED THIS
SUMMER WITH OUR FREE VIRTUAL
PLAYDAZE PROGRAMME!**

The programme will run from Monday 27th July until Wednesday 2nd September and will be a mixture of pre-recorded video and bookable workshops! We have teamed up with some of our usual partners including The University of Cambridge Museums to deliver a variety of sessions which will include, arts and crafts, quizzes and discos!

For more information and guidance on how to book onto activities please check our Facebook page or our website from the 20th July.

www.facebook.com/chypps
www.cambridge.gov.uk/chypps



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