



Keeping in Touch

June-July 2018



Hi, for those of you who don't know me my name is Jason and I have been a Pastoral Assistant in St Mary's since October and can often be seen up front most Sundays. For those who don't know what a Pastoral Assistant is join the club! A Pastoral Assistant can cover a whole range of things, but basically it is a role that gives someone, like myself, scope and freedom to explore God's call on their life. For me that call is towards ordination, and the role of Pastoral Assistant has allowed me to experience and witness first-hand the role of a Priest including some of the challenges they may face and the many joys that come from serving a parish.

As some of you may know, this is actually my second year of placement within the Bishops Hatfield team with my previous year being spent within the parishes of St Michael's, Birchwood and St John's, Lemsford. With last year being my first experience of anything like this it meant there was a lot of observation happening, but a second year meant I could hit the ground running and test what I had learnt! I'd like to take this moment to commiserate you on drawing the short straw and being the willing (or maybe not so willing) test subjects..... Seriously though, I'd like to thank you all for the warmest of welcomes given when I arrived and the support you have given me since!

From the off-set Julia had figured out that I wasn't shy about making a fool of myself, regularly getting me to dress up, mime, and act in school assemblies and family worship, even to the extent of revealing a t-shirt in the style of Superman to more than a few worried looks from the congregation as I took off the shirt on top! I love the fact that some of you aren't afraid to get up and get involved however you can!

Over the year I have had many wonderful opportunities to work alongside some of you and have thoroughly enjoyed each and every one of them. One of the more notable times some of you were willing to be my Guinea pigs was the time I worked alongside the choir to produce and lead a Taizé evensong, which left me speechless at the end of it. I have also had the privilege of leading the craft session for children small and large (you know who you are) giving me the opportunity to get to know many I may otherwise not have met. I have also thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Mums and Tots group every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in the Memorial Hall. It has been a great pleasure getting to know the parents and guardians and seeing the Tots grow and develop, even over such a short amount of time.



Cont'd.....

.....Now that Julia has left, many people with roles in the church have needed to take on extra responsibilities, not least of these are the Church Wardens Gill and Martin. I am grateful for the continued support I have received from them and yourselves, and it has been a humbling experience as I try my best to be able to support you and the School in this time of transition. There are of course many others within the church that have taken on responsibilities above and beyond their role. It has been heartening to see how your church family rallies in times such as these to support each other! As my own time here comes to a close (don't get too excited, you've still got to put up with me until 15th July, then you can relax!) I have every confidence you will be able to support those who will be keeping the church running during the interregnum. I will however continue to pray that through this time you will continue to bear fruit and will eventually have the right person come forward that who will be able to journey alongside you with God.

The Licensing of the Rev'd Julia Boothby as Priest in Charge of St James the Great Dingwall, St Anne Strathpeffer and St Ninian, Invergordon.

by Diana Glanfield



On Saturday May 5th in the pretty spa village of Strathpeffer the Rev'd Julia Boothby was licensed as Priest in Charge of the three churches in the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness.

The Scottish Episcopalian Church of St Anne was chosen for the service which was conducted by the Bishop the Right Rev'd Mark Strange together with the Provost of Inverness Cathedral the Very Rev'd Sarah Murray along with other members of clergy in the diocese.

A very warm welcome awaited Martin, Gill, Diana and Jason the four representatives from St Mary's North Mymms as they were ushered into a reserved pew near the chancel just before the arrival of Julia's family. The lovely church of St Anne was aglow with candles and pink and white flower arrangements as the sun poured through the beautiful Victorian stained glass windows.

Following an anthem by the choir and a hymn the simple, moving service, in which members of all three churches took part, proceeded smoothly with the reading of the licence with Julia answering in a strong voice supported by the congregation. The genial Bishop Mark gave a lively sermon and the service continued with the presentation to the new incumbent of a Bible signifying Julia's role as a teacher and preacher, Holy Oils signifying healing and reconciliation, a prayer book to denote a person of prayer and a leader of worship, bread and wine to bless and celebrate communion and, finally, the keys of the three churches to signify that they would always be open for people. A new stole was given to Julia and as she knelt before the Bishop she made her promise to faithfully carry out the duties of her ministry.

As the Bishop celebrated the Eucharist the choir sang the hymn "Be still for the presence of the Lord" followed by the anthem "Brother James Air".

At the end of the service Julia was able to stand outside in the spring sunshine and greet her new congregation before walking up the hill to the new and splendid primary school and community centre where a delicious buffet lunch was served. The St Mary's party mingled with the rest of the congregation and were soon chatting away and learning all about the area, its parishes and parishioners. The same evening Julia and her husband David invited the St Mary's folk to join them for dinner at The Parsonage which was extremely enjoyable!

We all send our love, prayers and all best wishes to Julia and David as they begin their new 'journey' together in a most beautiful part of the world just north of Inverness. May they truly go in love and peace to serve the Lord.

Community Arts Festival June 21st - June 29th

Festival of Art and Music in Brookmans Park, North Mymms and Potters Bar



Preview evening Thursday 21st June 7.00pm –9.00pm

Pimms & Canapes Entry £5.00

Gallery open daily

For more details of gallery opening times and other events see

<https://brookmansparkurc.wordpress.com/>



Art Workshop

The next workshops will be held on Mondays 4th 11th and 18th June 2.00-4.00pm or 7.00-9.30pm. In St Michael's Room. Art from the workshop will be displayed at the Community Arts Festival. If you are interested please contact Robin Elgar 01707 261810



Midsummer Concert Friday 22nd June 7.30pm



We are delighted to announce that we will be holding a concert by the very talented Spiral Saxophone Quartet. The concert will take place in St Mary's Church as part of the Arts Festival weekend. Tickets for the concert cost £10 to include an interval drink.

For tickets and more information please contact Jill Pratt prattmsm@hotmail.com or Brenda Harris 01707 655355

If you would like future copies of this Newsletter posted to you then please send your name and address to the St Mary's Parish Office, North Mymms Park, Hatfield, AL9 7TN

Sunday Services at St Mary's

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Eucharist
1st Sunday of the Month 10.30am Family Service followed by a short
communion service
6.30pm Choral Evensong
3rd Sunday of the Month 11.30am Baptisms

Parish Registers for April and May 2018

Baptisms

20 May Franklin Goodheart
Carter Moralee

Funerals

16 May Gladys Carolan

Contact us

During the interregnum please contact either the Churchwardens or the Office Administrator for service bookings or queries.

Churchwardens

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Parish Office open Tuesday & Wednesday

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