



Keeping in Touch



June - July 2019

Rev'd Ruth Barr writes

What a pleasure to be asked to introduce myself before I join you as your new Team vicar in September.

I'm married to John and have two adult sons; Joshua is 23, he works in St Albans and lives with us, and Zander who is 21 and studying International Development at the University of Sussex. Our family is rounded out with a very friendly black & white rescue cat called Tetley.

I grew up in Rickmansworth, so I am looking forward to coming back to Hertfordshire when I move to North Mymms.

I worked for GM for 12 years, 7 in the USA for Chevrolet & Buick and the final 5 back in Watford, now working for Vauxhall. After having my boys, I wanted to be available for them during their school holidays, so I retrained as a Communication Support Worker, using British Sign Language to deliver lessons in subjects ranging from Basic English, Motor Mechanics and Art up to degree level maths, for West Herts College. I then moved to supporting children with disabilities in Primary Schools for the next ten years.

When I finally slowed down enough to hear God calling me to ordained ministry, I went through the St Albans Diocese selection process then trained at St Mellitus theological college in London.

When I was ordained in 2016, I was licensed as a Curate at St Thomas's Church in Stopsley and have been part of a busy church. It has been an amazing time of being stretched, of absorbing so many aspects of parish ministry, of learning how to sit with those who are in the middle of crises and grief. I have had the privilege of being with people as a new life enters the world and also with those who are at the end of their life's journey. I have learned how to calm brides who are agitated at seemingly trivial details and how to warn best men of appropriate behaviour, being there to join couples as they start their journey together as a new team. I have had numerous hospital visits, sitting alongside people from the parish as they navigated sometimes difficult diagnoses, pain and change, hopefully being able to bring some of the hope that we have as Christians.



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Isaiah 26:3-4 says this:

³ *You will keep in perfect peace
those whose minds are steadfast,
because they trust in you.*

⁴ *Trust in the Lord forever,
for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.*

These three years have brought a large change to us as a family too. My elderly mother moved to Luton with us and after 18 months, at the wonderful age of 93, she went to Glory, after being a large part of our family. Even at the end, she told me to go and speak to the people in the surrounding hospital beds about Jesus. We all have such a hope in knowing Jesus that we should be compelled to share that same hope with others around us.

(P.S. I have permission from the baby's mum and the other lady in the photo to use it)

Joyce Mills



A thanksgiving service was held on Thursday 23rd May at Holy Trinity Church, Old Wolverton for the life of Joyce Mills who died on 30th April 2019 aged 86. Joyce had been married to Geoff for 64 years. They met at a youth club in Barnet when they were teenagers. Joyce said that the most important date in her life was the 19th December, the day she met Geoff.

Joyce was devoted to her family, a good friend to many and a great animal lover. The WI was a major part of her life, she had been a member for over 50 years and President of Brookmans Park for 18 years. She bravely carried when struck down with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) and had donated her Brain and Spinal Cord to the PLP Association for research.

A thoughtful and moving service for a life well lived.

Joyce Clark

Date for your diary—23rd September

The Churchwardens are pleased to announce that the Licensing Service for the Rev'd Ruth Barr will be on Monday 23rd September 2019 at 7.30pm.

More details to follow.

In the meantime please hold Ruth and her family in your prayers as they prepare to move to North Mymms



Prayer for Pentecost - 9th June



Spirit of God,
flickering over our
heads,
illuminating our faces,
inspiring our thoughts,
give us now, we pray,
WORDS OF JOY AND PRAISE.

Spirit of God,
filling our hearts with hope,
steadying our nerves with peace,
comforting our lives with love,
give us now, we pray,
WORDS OF JOY AND PRAISE.

John Harvey

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.Spirit of God,
come to us now –
surging through the
darkness of our lives,
sweeping over our weariness –
so that, in this time of Pentecost,
the sparkling light of faith,
the rushing wind of hope
and the joyful sound of praise
may echo round the world,
may echo in the church,
and find their response in us.

Spirit of God, give us now, we pray,
WORDS OF JOY AND PRAISE.
AMEN

Midsummer Concert 23rd June 3.00pm



We are delighted that the Chiltern West Gallery Quire will be with us on the afternoon of **Sunday 23 June**. The concert will be part of the annual Arts Festival and in aid of Church Funds. The concert is entitled “The Soldier and the Ploughboy” music from the 18th and 19th centuries. The concert will be followed by tea and cake in St Michael’s Room.

The cost of a ticket is £10.

Tickets available from Brenda Harris beejharris@yahoo.co.uk or
Jill Pratt prattmsm@hotmail.com 01707 270222.

