ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, STREATLEY PROCLAMATION

JUNE 2021



Serving the Communities of Streatley, Warden Hill and Bramingham Park/Barton Hills

www.stmargarets-streatley.uk

40p

Parish Announcement

Due to current Covid19 restrictions there are some changes in the times we are able to gather as a community.

- The buggy group is sadly suspended until further notice.
- The youth group will share dates and times of one-off events shortly.
- We continue to share online worship every day on either the church or the Vicar's FB page.
- We continue to share Sunday Worship at 9.00 on the FB pages and from 10.00 on YouTube.

Please call Nigel for any further information.

https://www.facebook.com/vicar.stmargarets.streatley/

PRIVATE PRAYER

The church is open on Monday and Wednesday between 11.00 and 1.00 for private prayer, and Sundays between 10.30 and 12.00 or privately by arrangement.

From the Vicarage

June 2021

After a year in my post, here at St Margaret's, some of you might be starting to get a sense of my love of all things absurd or offbeat (and this will definitely be no surprise to you if you've met my wife). God has blessed us all over the years with some wonderful - albeit surreal - people that can sometimes make our world just a little bit brighter ... Spike Milligan, Keith Moon, The Pythons, Salvador Dali. One of my favourites (although obviously I never voted for him), was 'Screaming Lord Sutch', who first ran for political office in 1963, at the age of 22. Not unsurprisingly, he lost. But over his lifetime, as leader of the Monster Raving Loony Party, he continued to campaign, making numerous promises to voters. His most famous ones include turning disused mine shafts into indoor bungee jumps, using Europe's over-production of butter to create a giant yellow ski slope and my favourite, putting joggers to good social use by forcing them to run on dynamo treadmills to generate electricity. And while the MRLP never really expected to win any seats, they offered us all the chance to smile by offering brilliantly silly promises if they won.

I believe God calls us all to think outside the box occasionally, especially if it helps build and support community. Last Christmas, as you know, Covid-19 forced us to scale back our celebrations, including the much-anticipated carol concert. And I said at the time, to a bitterly disappointed choir and congregation, that we would hold our Christmas concert in the summer. Covid-19 would not steal Christmas from us. So that is exactly what we are going to do. As long as the restrictions are fully lifted by then, <u>on July 30th at 7pm</u>, we will have a community Christmas sing-a-long outside the church. We will wear Christmas hats, eat mince pies, drink mulled wine and children can dress as angels, shepherds and kings. We may even have a donkey and the great bearded one himself, Father Christmas. This will all be done to raise funds for Keech Hospice Care. Everybody is invited and it should be a lot of fun. And with the highly unusual weather we've all been having recently, who knows, we might even have some snow!

Have a great month.

With much (festive and seasonal) love,

Revd Nigel and Rosie.



From the Registers



Funerals

1st April 2021Frederick Bourn21st April 2021Doris Wake19th May 2021Olive Greaves

Tower Light Sponsorship

To celebrate or commemorate a special occasion, please contact Clare Powell by 1st the previous month, on 01462 811165. Sponsorship £5 per week.

Altar Sponsorship

Would you like to sponsor flowers for the Altar pedestal to celebrate a special occasion such as a birthday, wedding, anniversary, christening, or any other celebration or may be in memory of a loved one?

There is a record of sponsorship in a book on the chest in the Cross Aisle in Church and as a token of thanks you will receive a commemorative card with a photograph. If you are interested, please contact Brenda on 01582 575 620 who will be happy to discuss your needs.



ADVERTISING IN PROCLAMATION

To advertise in the magazine, please contact:

magazine.stmargarets.streatley@gmail.com

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Barton Hills Community goes "Above and Beyond"



The latest Tidy Team Community 'Litter Pick' collected 35 bags of rubbish and approximately £650 worth of food donations. In order to participate in the "Litter Pick" participants were asked to bring an item/s of food to be taken later to the Luton Foodbank.

A car load completely packed full to the gunnels was safely delivered to the Luton Foodbank today. The staff were overwhelmed with the generosity shown, and so appreciative particularly when it was explained how the collection of food was organised.

What a wonderful way for a community, not only to help the local environment, but also to show kindness to others less fortunate in our society.

Thank you on behalf of Rev. Nigel and all at St Margaret's Church, Streatley to everyone who contributed in any way.



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SWERVE *A pandemic lament* (tune: optional!)

I swerve in the morning, when the day is begun. I swerve in the moon and the stars and the sun. I swerve in the park and I swerve in the street. To stay well clear of the people I meet.

Swerve then, wherever you may be. I am the expert of swerve you see. And I'll keep on swerving, wherever I may be. I am the expert of swerve you see.

Before Corona Virus I never swerved at all. I mingled with people in crowds both large and small. But now I find I cannot refrain. It might be a while, before I mingle again!

Swerve then etc.

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CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	4 5	6	7
8			9			
10				11		
10				11		
	12	13			14	
15						16
17	18		19	20		
21				22		
23			2	24		

Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7)(5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)

- 'I have just got , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet
 (Luke 14:20) (7)
- Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST 2021 PROCLAMATION

Sunday 7 June

but earlier if possible, please.

Please send usual/potential contributions to

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

magazine.stmargarets.streatley@gmail.com.

I would be grateful to receive contributions, where possible, in Word.

Thanks, Cathy Aizlewood

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MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Our loyal and regular subscribers will be expecting a reminder that subscriptions are overdue for another year's worth of Proclamation.

Obviously in these strange times, the magazine is not being printed by the usual group of helpful ladies but the contributors and the Editor trust that many of you are getting to read it on line.

A decision on subscription renewal will be made when we see what happens next!

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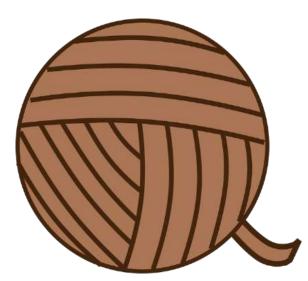


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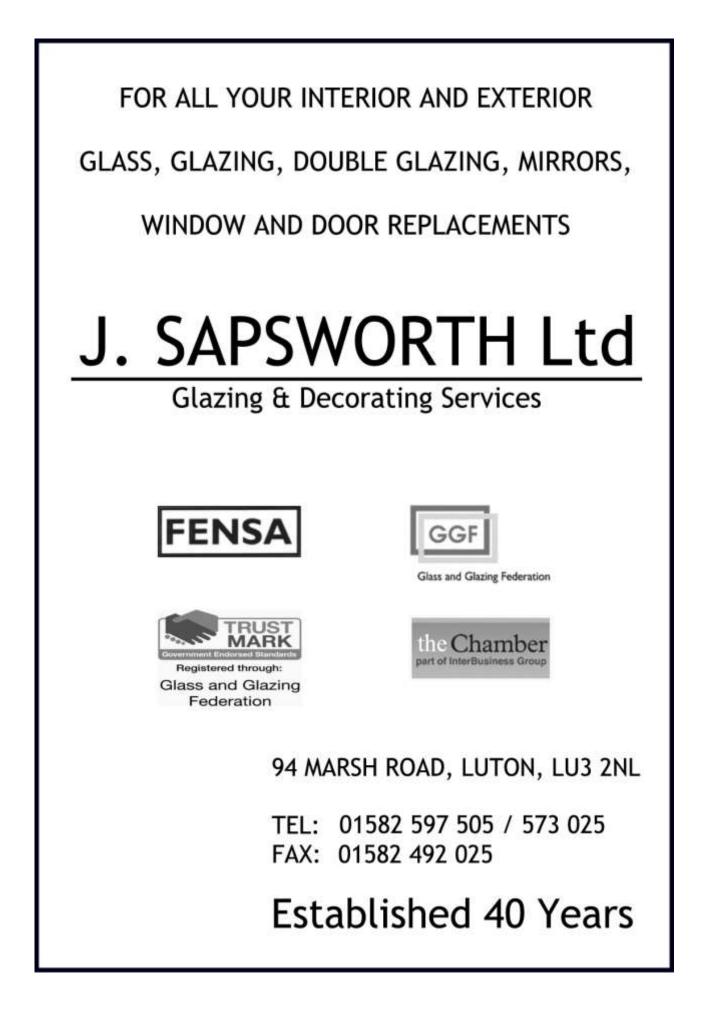
If anyone has spare wool which might be used by the blanket knitters, can you please pass it to Jean Flower.

Thanks

Thank you to everyone who has donated wool for the blanket knitters. I have just sent off another batch of twelve lovely multi-coloured blankets, all neatly edged.

So please, if you have any more unwanted wool you care to donate, it would be most appreciated.

Many thanks from Jean



Website and email address update 2

Following problems over the last few months, the website has finally been moved to its new home and here is the link:

www.stmargarets-streatley.uk

If you use a search engine (such as google), this will direct you to the old website!

We have also had to change the email address for the Magazine, Care Committee and Secretary. These are now:

magazine.stmargarets.streatley@gmail.com

care.stmargarets.streatley@gmail.com

secretary.stmargarets.streatley@gmail.com

If you wish to contact Revd Nigel, his email address is:

streatleyvicar@outlook.com

Again, all these contact details are available on the back of the Proclamation.

Janet Jeans PCC Secretary

TIME LOCK

TIME LOCK

A cautionary tale of bad manners and their consequences.

An audio version of this story is available on audible, narrated by Julia Eve

Danny, whilst tidying his Great Gran's box room, finds some delicately painted postcards and an old, framed photograph of a girl in Victorian dress. As he examines the cards, the girl appears in the room. She tells him her name is Kitty and asks if he would like to play a game with her. He rudely declines, calling the cards soppy and so she whisks him away to another time, where all the characters have come alive. He must find the one to help him get back to his own time. A girl called Phoebe steals his phone and Danny chases after her, upsetting a barrow boy, Johnny J and two policemen. Now on the run from the cops Danny hides in a tent and finds himself pretending to be a competition winner and agreeing to play a clown called Fat Head in an open-air Music Hall show. But things go wrong again and Danny trips against a rifle, which goes off with a loud bang! He's on the run again, this time chased by the nasty Macaw. He sees another character but doesn't try to help him. He steals the man's old bicycle, crashes it and hides in a hedge.

CHAPTER FIVE

Danny lay very still. He waited until he was satisfied everyone had gone and then eased through the hedge and out the other side. It looked like an empty field. He crawled along the ground, keeping close to the hedge, just in case McGuffin was still doing his impression of a police helicopter but there was no sign of the Macaw. He saw both his T-shirt and jeans were torn. He crawled to where the hedge ended and saw a road ahead. A sign said: 'SCHOOL LANE'.

Of course, he thought, this is the old school. Perhaps Little Wilfred will be here. The school had a big wooden gate that opened onto the playground. It wasn't shut. Danny cautiously walked inside. He couldn't hear anyone.

I wonder where the classroom is, he thought.

"Oi!" said a gruff voice. "What do you think you're doing?"

Danny turned and saw it was Mr Giggle, the man with the broom, one of the two characters left for him to find.

"Oh, hi," he said casually.

"High what?" growled the man.

"Um, is Wilfred here?" asked Danny. The man frowned.

"Wilfred, which one, we have several."

"Little Wilfred," replied Danny. Mr Giggle scratched his stubbly chin.

"I see. No he's not here. None of the children is. The school's closed, as they've all gone to the fete. I'm about to lock up." He suddenly peered at Danny. "Why have you got such a pink face?"

"Um, I didn't realise I had," replied Danny.

"You've got the scarlet fever haven't you, boy?"

"What? Course I haven't," retorted Danny.

"Then why are your cheeks so pink? That's how the scarlet fever shows itself. There's been an outbreak. It's very catching." He waved his broom at Danny. "You get out of there and take your rotten germs with you!"

Danny backed away. Someone ran past him. It was Horace Giggle.

"Pa, Pa," he cried. "I've lost me ferret. It ran away when the gun went off. Come and help me find it." Mr Giggle grabbed hold of his son.

"Yes, I heard the bang. And you keep away from this lad, he has the scarlet fever."

Horace looked at Danny.

"He's the boy who caused the gun to go off. He was dressed as a clown with big red lips. I bet that's just some of his make-up smeared on his face!" Mr Giggle scowled.

"What? Come here, you!"

He made a lunge at Danny but Danny was too quick. He ran out of the school and down the lane as fast as he could. Everything was going wrong. The lane led to the river; well it did in his time. He hoped it was the same in this. The river was still there. It was quite wide and prone to flooding when it rained heavily. It didn't look that much different. There was a windmill on the opposite bank, which wasn't there now and also a train track running along behind him. That wasn't there now, either. He wondered about the weir. One of his mate's kid brothers had fallen into the river and was almost sucked over it. It was dangerous. He walked down to the bank and looked upstream. The weir was

there and with no safety gates like it had now. There was just a sign saying: **'Danger**. **Deep water**. **Do not swim'**. He sat down. It felt familiar here but now he despaired of ever finding the key to unlock time and take him home. He'd lost his phone and probably his trainers and he'd managed to upset just about everybody he met, by being rude and unhelpful, just the thing that Kitty had warned him not to be. He couldn't expect anyone to help him.

I'll just have to go back to the fete he thought, apologise and help Horace look for his ferret. I can use the shilling to pay Johnnie J tuppence and give the rest to Mrs Giggle for the ruined cakes. He stood up. A big red ball bounced down towards the river and a little, skinny boy ran after it.

"Hey! Be careful!" shouted Danny, as the ball bounced on the uneven bank and plopped into the river. The skinny boy looked as if he was going to jump in after it. "No!" said Danny. "It's too close to the weir." The little boy was sobbing.

"Ma will give me what for if I lose it. It was a birthday present." Danny could sympathise. His mum would be the same if he lost his phone.

"Don't worry, I'll get it," said Danny and he dived into the river. He could feel the pull of the weir but he was a strong swimmer. The ball bobbed upstream. He swam after it. It was almost on top of the weir now. If it went over, it would be lost. Danny swung his arm and managed to punch it towards the bank. He could see the water flowing down to the lower level of the river. He could be badly injured or even drowned if he went over. How would anyone find out? He was stuck in 1886! With one mighty effort he swam towards the bank. He felt the pull of the weir ease. The ball bobbed harmlessly beside some rushes. He grabbed it and climbed onto the bank. He ran along to where he had left the little boy. To his surprise Phoebe sat beside him. He handed the ball over and saw it was Little Wilfred.

"Thank you, Danny," said Phoebe. She gave him his phone, "you can have this back now." As he took hold of it, Phoebe's image faded and there sat Kitty.

"So you were her," said Danny, amazed. Kitty smiled.

"In my stories I am always Phoebe," she replied. "She's my other me."

"So, this was all just one of your stories?"

"Yes, sorry."

"When can I go back to my own time?" asked Danny. "I haven't found the right person to help me. Everything has gone wrong. And I'm sorry, but I think all your pictures are wet."

"Not to worry," said Kitty, "but you have found the right person. Little Wilfred is your key to unlock time. You see, all you had to do was help someone. You did have other chances but didn't take them."

Danny nodded. He thought about Miss Marjorie, Mrs Giggle, Tilly Topper, Horace Giggle, Edward Goggly-Nosebag, he could have helped them all. He could even have helped Max clean his costume.

"I was too busy thinking about my phone," he admitted. "Why did you take it?" Kitty laughed.

"You didn't need it in my time and I thought it would be fun to see if you could manage without it."

"And I didn't manage very well, did I?" he said.

"No," replied Kitty.

"I've been really stupid," he said. Kitty smiled.

"Yes, you have. But it's over now."

She laughed again. A steam train suddenly rattled past and her laughter was lost in the racket it made. It covered them in smoke, belching from its funnel. When the smoke cleared, Danny found he was back in Great Gran's box room and everywhere was tidy! His clothes were dry, his face wasn't bright pink and he wore his trainers. In fact, it didn't look like he'd been anywhere.

Final part next time

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Ambush. 4, School. 8, Tired. 9, Famines. 10, Citadel. 11, Endor. 12, Atonement. 17, Avert. 19, Oracles. 21, Married. 22, Lance. 23, Rhythm. 24, Hyssop.

DOWN: 1, Attach. 2, Biretta. 3, Sided. 5, Compete. 6, Owned. 7, Lustre. 9, Falsehood. 13, Ostrich. 14, Talents. 15, Farmer. 16, Asleep. 18, Early. 20, Alley.



St Margaret's Church, Streatley 29th April 2021 Support for the Luton Foodbank





Our Foodbank collection resumed at St Margaret's Parish Centre this afternoon between 2.00 and 4.00p.m. It was really pleasing to see so many people arrive with an amazing selection of non perishable food items, much needed Long Life Full Fat UHT milk as well as household products and toiletries, which are always useful and gratefully received and very much appreciated by the Luton Foodbank staff.

A particular thank you to Nigel M and the Barton Hill Community Group "Tidy Team" for kindly publishing the event on their Facebook page, and to Kerry C for organising a collection of donations from her friends and neighbours. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is very much appreciated by everyone at St Margaret's Church Streatley.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with donations, organising the collections and for delivering everything after to the Luton Foodbank.

We shall continue to collect for the Luton Foodbank on a monthly basis on the last Thursday in the month.. Any donations are greatly appreciated.

Thank you all for your support

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