



# The Ship

**St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter**

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 148

October 2022

## Open Church

Just as we had become accustomed to having "Open Church" again on the 2nd Saturday of the month after the many months of lockdowns, we now find that this will not be possible for a while (Harvest Lunch in October and Christmas Market in November). So the next time the Church will be open on the 2nd Saturday of the month between 2.00pm and 4.00pm will be on 10th December.

## Harvest Thanksgiving

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service for 2022 is at 9.30am on Sunday 9th October. We are living through hard times at present but there is still so very much for which we can be thankful. Our service will explore the theme of "Generosity", focussing not least on the eternal generosity of God. Please come and join us.

## From the Registers

### Baptisms:

(11th September) James Frederick Nash;  
(25th September) Isabella Catharina Mulder.

### Funerals:

(9th September) Rita Bronwen Berry;  
(16th Sept) Ailsa Elizabeth Dorothea Royds;  
(30th September) Barbara Wakelin.

### Burial of cremated remains:

(15th September) Michael David Cunnell,  
Linda Cunnell

## Christmas Market

This will be on Saturday 12th November  
2.00-4.00pm in the Village Centre.

## Piano Recital

by James Kirby

Sat 22nd October

4.00pm

St Jude's Church

Admission free

Refreshments available

Donations welcome

## In Remembrance and Gratitude

I am writing this article on the day the official Court Morning following the death of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II comes to an end. The Royal Family will return to their official duties. Gradually the signs of public mourning will disappear. Last week there was still the occasional single flower to be seen along the A30, remnants of the many flowers strewn in honour of the Queen as her coffin passed. But now TV schedules have returned to normal and our news is dominated once again by the cost of living crisis and the war in Ukraine.

But before we turn the page completely I do want to thank all those who shared in expressions of mourning and of thanksgiving across our Village. In St. Jude's we were pleased to be able to have the church open on additional occasions, to toll the church bell in unison with others across our land, and to welcome people to our service offered especially in thanksgiving for her Majesty.

Many of us will have watched the Queen's Funeral Service, both from Westminster Abbey and St George's Chapel, Windsor. For me, one of the most poignant moments of the service in Windsor was when the symbols of monarchy: the orb, sceptre and crown, were removed from the Queen's Coffin and placed on the Altar. It was a stark reminder of a verse from the writings of the Apostle Paul: *We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it* (1 Timothy 6:7). Even the Queen herself, who enjoyed such position and influence throughout her long reign, would come with empty hands before her God on the day he called her home to him.

Queen Elizabeth II clearly had a deeply personal faith. She was not shy about making reference to it and in fact made it clear that her relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ was of unique importance to her. The example of her faith is a powerful element of the legacy she has left behind. It enabled her, in the words of one of my neighbours as he reflected on her passing, to fulfil her duties even from the moment of her accession, with poise, grace and love. She received the baton handed on to her and at once offered her whole self, under God, to the life of service which lay ahead of her.

In a rather different way, some of us were perhaps moved especially by the sight of one of the Queen's horses, Emma, waiting patiently beside the Long Walk in Windsor as the Funeral Procession came into view; or the sight of two of the Queen's young corgis outside the Castle. There were ever present reminders that the Queen enjoyed a richly varied life behind the persona of monarchy, as well as within it. The tributes paid to her by her grandchildren made it clear that she had been a loving, "hands on" Grandmother, deeply involved in their lives.

On the Sunday we devoted our 9.30am service to Remembrance and Thanksgiving for our Queen and Diana Bendall preached for us. Her sermon was a moving tribute to the Queen's life and faith and Diana made reference to a passage from the Old Testament which has come to be known as "A Time for Everything". Found in Ecclesiastes 3 it begins *There is a time for everything and a season for every purpose under heaven*. It is a fitting commentary on a life of 96 years which encapsulated so much. Less well known, maybe, than the poem itself, is a verse which follows it: *God has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart*.

Queen Elizabeth spoke often about "Hope", even in the darkest times. But it may well be true to say that her greatest hope was the hope of life eternal – and the knowledge that she would one day exchange those symbols of earthly power for the "Crown of life" awaiting her in eternity. She leaves us all with much to ponder.

Just as our Queen asked the prayers of her people at the outset of her reign, that she might fulfil her responsibilities faithfully and well, so she would surely ask our prayers now for her son and heir, His Majesty King Charles III. And so we pray: God save the King!



## Rita Bronwen Berry

On Friday 9th September, the day immediately following the death of our Queen, many of us were privileged to attend in St Jude's Church the Funeral Service of Rita Berry, who died peacefully at home on 10th August 2022 at the age of 84.

Rita was known to many throughout the village and beyond. There were representatives at the service for her from many walks of life. Members of her family paid tribute to her during the service and shared memories of Rita over the years, including reflections of her nursing career and her missionary service overseas. The printed Order of Service for Rita included a snapshot of the day that Rita had met with Cliff Richard (now Sir Cliff, of course) whilst he was making a visit to Bangladesh on behalf of Tear Fund!

The Revd Andrew Reed preached movingly on the New Testament reading which Rita had chosen for the service: verses from 1 Corinthians 15. He also reflected widespread appreciation for Rita's preaching ministry as a Methodist Local Preacher which began in 2000. Rita preached throughout the Staines and Feltham Methodist Circuit including on many occasions in St Jude's, where she could barely be seen over the pulpit lectern, but where she always left us with food for thought!

One of the readers at the service was Dr Andrew Sheer who had known Rita for many years and worked alongside her in ventures like the MAC Club, the "J" Club and finally of course Crusaders, which was to become Urban Saints. Rita was a driving force in the ecumenical activities enjoyed in Englefield Green under the Churches Covenant. She was also, along with her good friend Margaret Willis, who died in 2018, a Methodist pioneer in bringing together their Church in Victoria Street with the Revd Lorna Smith and the congregation of St Jude's: the beginning of "Anglicans and Methodists Working Together". With Margaret and Linda Ashford, who was at that time a Methodist Lay Pastor, Rita shared the vision for the development of the Methodist building into our Village Centre which continues to thrive and to serve our village today. The other reader, Diana Bendall, represented the "Greek Geeks", a small group of people, including Rita, who have in recent years been learning New Testament Greek together.

But in all these things, the most consistent tribute paid to Rita was that to her passion for her faith. Rita never missed an opportunity to share her love for the Lord Jesus Christ. We were reminded that she even kept a pile of evangelistic leaflets close to the front door of her home so that she could offer one to every caller. Very fittingly, at the Committal Service for Rita at the South West Middlesex Crematorium we sang the hymn "All for Jesus". Rita's life could not have been better summed up in any other way.

Many of us are indebted to Rita for the example of her life; for her care and support and for her ministry in preaching and teaching. But our hearts go out especially to her family, particularly to Andrew, Iain and Verena, and to friends who, alongside her family, cared for Rita during the closing months and weeks of her life here. She will certainly have been greeted in heaven by the lovely words of Jesus: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter now into the joy of your Lord"! (Matthew 25:21)

## Foodbank

We are enormously grateful to everyone who continues to contribute to the work of Runnymede Foodbank, both through St Jude's and our Village Centre.

Thank you to Geoff Chew who regularly takes donations from St Jude's to the collection centre in Egham. Thank you to the staff and volunteers at our Village Centre who provide a collection point at the Centre and host a distribution session each Wednesday afternoon from 1pm-3pm.

In these especially tough economic times our food banks are busier than ever. Please do make use of the Foodbank collection crate in the Monsell Room, or the shelves in the Village Centre foyer, to leave donations of non perishable food items.

## Easyfundraising.org.uk

Please do remember that if you register with [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and select St Jude's Church, Englefield Green as your chosen charity, you can then shop online with many organisations (including Amazon, John Lewis, etc) and make money for St Jude's at the same time without costing you a penny. So far we have raised over £1200 by this scheme.

## Jam Jar Appeal

Brian and Pat Summers are in the process of making jams, jellies and marmalade for sale in Church and at our Christmas Market (in the Village Centre on 12th November). All donations of jam jars would be gratefully received. Please bring into church or leave them outside the Monsell Room door! Thank you!

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