

GRAPEVINE

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God is in Charge!

**Psalm 127 A song of ascents.
Of Solomon.**

*¹ Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.*

A song of ascents was a song that the children of Israel would sing as they ascended to the temple on pilgrimage. Psalm 127 reminds us that God is in charge! As we approach the end of my time as Vicar here at St. John's it is important to remember that He is in charge! So what next? As St. John's heads towards an interregnum (a change of ruler!!) or now often called a vacancy, our church wardens take up legal responsibility. Archdeacon Allie Kerr will help and guide the process and will hopefully be at the next PCC meeting in September. I am assuming that St. John's will be given a full-time

incumbent given our numbers, outreach and missional nature.



A parish profile will be drawn up outlining who we are, the parish we serve, and what we are looking for (under God) to lead us into the next part of our journey.

Two people will be selected by the PCC to help in the selection process. The Patron of the church (in our case Bishop Jonathan) has a big input in the selection and interview / appointment.

Usually an advert is placed within the Diocese and appropriate candidates are selected for interview.

This process is likely to take several months, but don't forget '*Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.*'

So stay together, show Welling how much God loves them, be red dots of influence in a grey world.

With Love in Christ always,
Adam

Rev Adam Foot, Vicar St. John's Welling

St John's News

Big decision, I'm not mentioning the weather!!

Regardless of the unmentioned, Life at St John's continues to be busy both corporately and individually but because they are the foundations on which we build, thank you so much Adam, for using recent sermons to highlight our **core values**. St John's is NOT a good social club (and good social clubs are great) but God's people growing His Kingdom. We need to be clear what His Kingdom, and therefore our values are.

I did mention **Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting** (May 19th) in June's Grapevine but only focused on Adam and Kate's retirement announcement. At the July PCC meeting new PCC members were welcomed and Ken Woodcock confirmed as Churchwarden. We pray for all of you as you serve.

And talking of **servicing**, If you are won-

dering and praying about where to serve there are real areas where help is needed: talk with Jenny Cosser or Mushi Rahman.

Work Morning thank you again, to the rather small group who did so much to clear our church grounds which have experienced massive weed growth due in part to the.....

That same morning we were saying goodbye to **Sarah** at Heathrow as she headed back to Germany, at the end her ten month time with CRIBS and St Johns. We know she will be back! Please pray for her as she hopes to study Politics and Economics, starting this Autumn.

Our Church loves **Paul and Sarah Tester**, our Mission Partners originally working in Peru but now in Oxford. It was so good to welcome them at the end of June when Paul preached at both the Morning and Life services. We had a lovely Bring and Share Lunch between the two services allowing more time for chatting.

Preparations for Spark have been

moving on. We collected toilet rolls, jam jars and cereal type boxes.... for weeks. Then at two **Cake and cut evenings**, teams cut, painted and glued, in readiness for the craft activities that hundreds of children will enjoy doing. We have been encouraged to join the **Spark** team and as I write, there are around 100 of the 120 volunteers needed! Now we need to invite and pray.

It was wonderful at a recent morning service, to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary with **Keith and Jackie Mackley**. We even sang some of the hymns they had at their wedding. We wish them many congratulations and pray that they will recover from their current health problems.

Michelle Cronin, Sue Read and Jon Stedman are beginning working for the Bishop's Certificate leading possibly to being Licensed Lay Ministers. Let's pray for them.

Until October! How can that be! Have a lovely two months. **Estelle Woodcock**

CRiBS: 'The Winds of Change'

first learning how a ship can sail against the wind and not just with it, although it involves sailing diagonally across the wind in a zig-zag way (tacking) - changing winds need not necessarily halt its journey. Please pray that we will all

The winds of change are blowing, whistling through the timbers of St. John's, whispering over the deck of CRiBS and whipping through the cabin(et) at 10 Downing Street like a whirlwind. I'm intrigued by how many nautical terms have found their way into everyday English, which I guess is because we're an island nation. Come to think of it, there are so many wonderful things in the Bible that happened in a boat or at sea – remarkable!



LIVING VALUES ✨ **GROWING FAITH**

We shall be sad to say bon voyage to our captain, Mark, who has helped navigate CRiBS through the last 7 or 8 years, having encouraged and supported every crew member with grace, wisdom and an uncommon pastoral warmth – we will miss him. And yet, we're grateful and thankful to God for Paul, Dan and Adam who are taking over the helm, together forming a new core team of officers. As Mark lifts his eyes to the horizon and seeks God's guidance in charting a new course, please pray for him, and also for our new leadership team as they learn many new ropes.

I remember being fascinated on



know how to crew well in unpredictable conditions and that we won't batten down the hatches when we ought to be hoisting the sails. In the meantime, Spark and Lark in the Park are on the horizon; may God help us all sail together and point people to the Captain of captains and Navigator of navigators, Jesus Christ, our hope and anchor. (Hebrews 6:19)

Jason Vaughan



Jobs Column: Andy Tey

Andy moved to the UK as a student for his undergraduate degree in Accounting and Finance. He began in 1995 at LSE (London School of Economics) aged 19 and completed his studies here in 1998 before returning home to Malaysia. He managed to secure a training contract with Ernst & Young (now called EY) back in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the Chartered Accountancy (ACA) training 1998-2003. He moved back to the UK in 2004 to finish off his last papers without the busy schedule of work and study alongside each other, and qualified in 2005, then finding a similar role in EY London in the Internal Audit department. Since then Andy has worked in London.

EY is one of the Big Four (Global Accounting Firms – Deloitte, PwC, EY and KPMG) which monopolise accounting and auditing round the world. Most accounting students will aspire to have contracts with these firms, so he is thankful to God to have been able to train and work in one.

He spent two further years in EY London before moving into banking in the area of Product Control for traders, initially working for Credit Suisse for three and a half years. Product Control ensures accurate financial reporting for trading, lending and treasury desks.

Subsequently he has worked as a contractor in Product Control, on short contracts moving from one bank to an-



other until 2019. He works in the financial services on products such as bonds, shares and derivatives.

Before Brexit, the contracts market in the financial services industry was larger than it is now in London. Demand for London's financial services was high, but has reduced since it lost its competitive advantage after leaving the EU. Now outside, it is harder for London's financial institutions to raise

funds for or sell financial products to European clients. Firms now have to use European branches or subsidiaries to make transactions in the EU at additional cost.

In 2019 Andy took permanent employment with the Japanese Mizuho Bank. During the pandemic, he worked entirely from home for 2 years before gradually returning to the London office for 1 day, 2 days, and finally 3 days a week. Hybrid working works well for Andy and his family. As his wife works full-time in a hospital, and he was full-time in London, his parents helped with school journeys when Evan and Amelia were younger. They returned home to Malaysia just before the lockdown in March 2020

Caring for Creation My Faith Journey: Kate Foot

During lockdown, the Diocese launched a programme called "Called to Grow", which basically encouraged the churches not to wait and see what might happen as we came out of lockdown (remember churches were closed) but to plan to be ready to grow and continue growing in five different areas; the fifth was "Protecting Creation's Life for Future generations". We have shortened that to "Caring for Creation".

That expectation for growth is still live and we should be looking to be greener as a church year on year, not just because the Diocese sees that as essential but because it is clear from the Bible that this is how we should be; as you may recall if you did the Caring for Creation house group material in 2023 (or 2022?).

You might immediately think of the building - insulation, heating system, energy supplies, recycling, etc but "Buildings" is just one module in the Eco Church checklist that the diocese encourages us to use. The others are "worship and teaching", "land", "community and global engagement" and "lifestyle". The point is to grow a greener heart to St John's as a church body and as individuals. There have been some adjustments that you may not have noticed, which is great because that means they feel normal, not just a fad. And there are more to come.

It's not just us - over 1,000 churches have attained a silver award in the Eco Church scheme and 50 have achieved gold. We have reached bronze in some modules, silver in others and nothing yet in gold, so we have a way to go.

So now you know. The PCC has confirmed its commitment, so let's get on board so that we carry on having the priorities you would expect of a church but also having caring for creation as a normal consideration in all we do.



If you have any bright ideas, do let me know. **Bob Morris**

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and didn't return until 2023. Working from home enabled Andy to step in to that gap and fit his work around the family.

I asked what Andy enjoys about his work: "Identifying if there are any system issues or differences which require checking and fixing. In the process I get a better understanding about the business. I'm more a number guy than a people guy. Verifying numbers, finalising accounts - these things are second nature to me and give me job satisfaction."

Andy thinks about his career with a thankful heart. "I always remind myself when faced with any job issues, difficulties or obstacles of any sort, to pray in my heart to God, asking him to give me the strength from the Holy Spirit and to look at them from different perspectives. Then the burden becomes less as I have peace in my heart. Consciously or unconsciously I continue to pray I will be a good red dot whether at home, at work or in-between." **Kate Foot**

¹⁸ "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. ¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!" (Isaiah 43) This week God spoke to me through these verses, and showed me as if for the first time that He is always doing something different and never recreates what he's done in the past. My story won't be the same as yours, neither yours with anyone else's, and my future. I was brought up church from when I was 12, but faith was not home, it was all very much later, I have thank God that my me to Church, as I found God when I took myself off to the Dubsters. When I was 14, I was invited to church by my neighbours, which is my spiritual home. At the first meeting they had an open prayer time, new to me, and I felt an urgency to pray out loud, sensing that if I didn't, I might never do so. It was so hard, but now it's so easy and my appetite for prayer has massively grown (especially at St John's). I finally believe that it really does make a difference! We can change the world through prayer alone, once we pray to the God who can change things.



All the things I'm passionate about now have their seeds early on -

- ◆ Improving systems and communication - I worked as a systems analyst following uni.
- ◆ Interpreting statistics so they aren't misunderstood - also from school and uni.
- ◆ Music and worship (The guitarists left youth group at 18 so I took over, and they made their own worship songbook, with just words. It was a steep learning curve, and I knew that God's Spirit anointed my pianistic ability into playing for worship.)
- ◆ Networking between churches - I booked a coach to take young people to Greenbelt when I was 15, and contacted all the other church youth groups in the town to invite them. Doesn't everyone do that?
- ◆ Overseas mission - In our next church, Adam volunteered me to be the missionary treasurer, counting and banking all the donation boxes, so I became part of the missionary committee, and joined one of the missionary prayer groups.
- ◆ School Christian Unions - In both my secondary schools, I attended and then led a CU, learning to give a simple Bible talk and arrange speakers.
- ◆ Evangelism - At work in London, before Alpha existed, I decided - actually I just couldn't help it - to hold a lunchtime meeting in the department to do a presentation about the Christian Faith. 6 people came, they probably just wanted to support me. It was hugely nerve wracking, but I knew God had called me to do it. Years and years later, I found myself saying yes to making Youth Alpha happen in Welling and then Bexley and booking residential weekends for it. It was hugely nerve wracking too.

"You did not choose me, I chose you and called you to bear fruit, fruit that will last." (John 15v16) - and He called me to leave full-time work so I could bear fruit in my local area, the fruit of God's change in people's lives.

Pioneering - all of the above. I can't help it.

And now as I move on, I'm sensing that God is still calling me forward to pioneer and serve and network and pray and bring people to him. Lord keep me faithful to your calling. Amen **Kate Foot**

House Group: Sundridge

born as was Jean - a teacher at BR. I, (supposed to be retired)

The housegroup began from an Alpha Course held at Betty Lockington's house in Hook Lane in 2007. It was led by Steve, Jean Jost (from BR) and I. It was a mix of St John's and BR, most of whom initially migrated into the housegroup. We twisted the arms of the rest over the years! Some of our number moved away; sadly our friends Audrey from BR, Roy Eldridge and Sandy all left us too young. We are a mixed bunch and have had different journeys through faith.

Introducing - Julie, an occupational therapist at St John's since 2018, Postman Pat (alias Jim) - 2018, Leigh - NHS administrator 2011, Eileen (the pie and mash eating matriarch) 2010, Claire - Housing Officer 2010, Roulla - TA, 2009, Zac the Handyman 2007, Kathy (our oldest and dearest member) 2007, Steve, the lazy (oops retired) ex policeman - 2003, Loretta - TA 2002, Bev - administrator 1989, Ruth - full time nanny/ administrator for Evergreen and Julia - graphic designer at St J's since the day they were



attended BR from 1992 but saw the error of my ways and migrated in 2003! We have friends who we miss associated with us - Lisa C, Cat D, Sharon H & Laura W to name but a few.

We are fun and down to earth and do not take ourselves too seriously and spend plenty of time laughing together.

Some of our group have been through some tough times in the past and present but we are always there to support and pray for one another using our WhatsApp group to spread the word. All except Jim who uses it for his jokes allegedly to cheer us up!! One of the biggest compliments to the group I hear is that people trust one another and know it is a safe space and share and pray together.

If you are at a loose end on a Monday night from September, you are welcome to join the madhouse. Ask Estelle and she will probably tell you we are the most rebellious; we never do what anyone else is doing! Blame the leader 😊 **Sue Read**

Mike's Parable of the Cup of Soup

The Kingdom of heaven is just like a Cup of soup. Left alone, the soup sachet and powder never change, But then a diner comes along, and tears open the reluctant sachet, and places it in a mug. He then adds boiling water, and carefully stirs the liquid for some minutes. The soup powder then becomes the soup it was designed to be. It fulfils its purpose, is consumed and nourishes the hungry drinker. Thank the Lord for the boiling water which, when properly poured, enables potential to be fulfilled.



SPARK 2024

IT'S ALL FREE!

Join us as we **Go for Gold** this summer at **Spark in the Park**

29th July - 2nd August 2024

Danson Park - next to the playground

1pm-4.30pm, Mon - Fri
7pm-9pm, Tues - Thur

Sports - Crafts - Inflatables - SEN Zone - Under 5s Area

www.sparkinthepark.org.uk

Evening Events at SPARK in the Park

<p>Tuesday</p> <p>Family Fun Night</p> <p>Games and challenges for all ages</p> <p>Bring a team or we'll find you one</p> <p>Free hotdog included</p> <p>30th July</p> <p>7pm-9pm</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>Family Quiz Night</p> <p>Quiz questions for all ages</p> <p>Bring a team or we'll find you one</p> <p>Refreshments available</p> <p>31st July</p> <p>7pm-9pm</p>	<p>Thursday</p> <p>Spark Extra</p> <p>All the fun of Spark but later!</p> <p>Craft for grown-ups, Inflatables, sports, music and a talk</p> <p>1st August</p> <p>7pm-9pm</p>
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Danson Park, next to the the playground

EVENING EVENTS ARE FREE!