



Parish of the Holy Cross

E-Sheet 10 12 August 2022

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This newsheet is emailed weekly to parishioners, worshippers and anyone who takes an interest in Shrewsbury Abbey, St Peter's Church and the wider community. To subscribe, please send a brief email, saying that you wish to receive the E-Sheet regularly: manager@shrewsburyabbey.com

MUSINGS FROM MIKE

We are indebted this week to Mike Spencer of this parish for contributing the following amusing sayings and anecdotes. A former geography schoolmaster at The Grange School in Stourbridge (now Pedmore High School) Mike is by his own admission a 'recycled teenager'. He has very kindly offered to recycle some of his memories for us here.

I was thinking the other night about odd characters that I have met in my life and why I remember them.

Whilst in the RAF for National Service, a corporal once said to me, "You want to be in a job where you don't know where you are, then you'll know where you are!"

I was in charge of 40 youngsters on an education coach trip abroad. Our last day and night was spent in Lourdes, at the Hôtel Angelic. When I booked I was told that the children were to be three to a bed. I instantly refused to accept this and, with much reluctance from the hotel management, we were given camp beds for friends to share. The lady owner of the hotel looked me in the eye and said sternly, "You come here to pray, not to complain."

www.hotel-angelic.com

We had a new headmaster at one time in my teaching career, who was famous



for saying, "My door is open, but my mind is closed."

We always had weekly staff meetings and some newly arrived staff used to think that they were full of good ideas. One well respected senior member of staff used to come up with the expression, "If it is new, we have tried it!"

We once had an oddball metalwork master who, although an accomplished artist, would only do self-portraits! One day he thought he would play a prank on the staff before morning assembly. He put on a William Hartnell mask he had obtained from a fancy dress store. (*For younger readers, Hartnell played the original Dr Who from 1963 to 1966.*)

Unfortunately our oddball teacher had picked the day when the local MP was visiting. This teacher arrived at the school's front door just as our headmaster was ushering the distinguished guest towards the assembly hall. He threw the door open, knocked the MP off his feet and exclaimed, "Is this Earth?" Not long after he left to become a driving instructor!

On a school trip we flew to Naples and from there went by coach to a village near Sorrento, which we used as our base. On the second day I hired another bus to take us down the famous Corniche Run - a magnificent journey along the coast to Amalfi, where the patron of Italian fishermen (and Scotland) Saint Andrew is buried in the church.

On the journey we came to a small town called Positano (*pop. 4000*) where the driver told us Sophia Loren lived, but we could see a much better view of her property on our return as the road did a graceful curve around the dwellings.

The children were really interested and asked the driver to slow down as we approached the gates of her property and they saw there were inscriptions across the double gates. The driver did as he was bidden, and was fascinated to see lots of the children busy writing down the inscriptions. He asked them why and they told him that they wanted to write to Sophia Loren, using the information that they had so studiously recorded. The driver burst out laughing, and called me over. He confidentially told me that what they were writing down basically was the Italian for "Beware of the Dog" and he didn't have the heart to disillusion them!

Life certainly wasn't dull in my role as housemaster, especially when I was given extra responsibilities, namely as the master in charge of foreign travel.

Mike has a phenomenal memory and a vast resource of stories. When he came in to have his photo taken, he happened to mention this: as a young man he witnessed a girl being run down by a car. The front wheel was on her neck. He summoned all his strength and managed to lift the car away, saving the girl's life. He tore two shoulder muscles, which still give trouble.

LICENSING SERVICE

Come and support your clergy and wardens!

Revd Pat Aldred introduced himself to everyone in E-Sheet 5 and we are delighted to announce that he will be licensed to the parish by Bishop Sarah on **Monday 15th August at 7.30pm** at the Abbey. Hannah Smith and Brian Newman will also be licensed as church wardens. (Bernice was licensed recently.) **Everyone is most welcome to attend the service, which will be followed by light refreshments.**

GREEN FINGERS

Would anyone be willing to help in the vicarage garden for a few hours on **Thursday 18th August?** I will be there from 9:30am. There is a lot of weeding, trimming and pruning needed. Please bring your own tools and gloves. I will provide cake and tea! If you can let me know if you are coming to help I would really appreciate it.
Hannah - 07964 391759 or hsmith3010@gmail.com

PARISH PICNIC

Come one, come all! **Sunday 28th August from 12noon to 4pm**, in the grounds of St Peter's, Monkmoor Road. Bring your own food, drink and rugs/deckchair and enjoy good company. The parish hall will be open for facilities, tea/coffee, and for an indoor picnic if wet. Look forward to seeing you there!
Katherine May - 01743 271627

CUPPA AND A CAKE

This promises to be a lovely occasion, raising money for a very good cause, and will take place on **Sunday 25th September**. It is timed so that you can still attend church that day and will run from midday to 4pm in the gardens of Whitehall Terrace, Whitehall Street, Shrewsbury SY2 5AA, raising money for The Friends of the Margaret Junior School. Entrance is free. If you can provide any cakes, Roger and Wendy Ford on 01743 246352 would be delighted to hear from you.

REFRESHMENTS HELP NEEDED

Please contact one of the church wardens: hsmith@gmail.com
b.m.newman@outlook.com
bernice160@btinternet.com

WHEELCHAIR NEEDED

The Abbey keeps a wheelchair for use by members of the congregation and visitors but the current one is in a very sorry state. If you have one or know of one that is going spare, please contact Steve in the parish office (details bottom right).

COMMUNITY MONEY ADVICE

Community Money Advice (CMA), is a UK-wide Christian charity that supports churches and community groups to offer free debt advice. If you feel this is something you could offer in our parish, there is a **free webinar via Zoom at 10.30 am on Thursday 25th August** and you would be very welcome to join. You will hear how this ministry/service works and be able to ask questions about church-led debt advice.

Contact:

Martin Bethell
martinb@communitymoneyadvice.com

BRIAN'S BENCHES

On Sunday 31 July the visit of the Archdeacon, Paul Thomas, to St Peter's was well timed for him to dedicate the benches given by Brian Ruff (E-Sheet 9) and thank him for his very generous gifts. The plan is to upgrade the paths and fix the benches permanently for the benefit of everyone, in accordance with Brian's wishes.



COFFEE & CHAT

If it's Tuesday, it must be Coffee & Chat! Come and join us each and every Tuesday at the Parish Hall (behind St Peter's Church) 10.00 to 11.30am.

Multi-cultural Community Funday!

Saturday 3rd September
At Shrewsbury United Reformed Church,
English Bridge, SY3 7BJ
From 12:00 to 16:00

All ages are welcome to this family friendly event.
FREE ENTRY

The Shrewsbury Inter-faith Forum invite you to the annual fun day. Dancers, singers & music. Indian, Polish & Ukrainian food. Children's activities, Tea, Coffee and Cake, and much more.

Shrewsbury Interfaith Forum
West Mercia Police
The Midcounties Co-operative

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH

DISCOVER CHURCHES CONFERENCE

We are delighted to announce that Shrewsbury Abbey has been chosen to host this year's Church Tourism conference on **Tuesday 11th October**, which will attract 200 delegates and 10 speakers from across the country. Unfortunately and ironically we will have to close the Abbey to normal visitors that day, however it is a privilege to be chosen, the conference will be streamed live and it will do much to put the Abbey (and the town) on the map.

FREE ORGAN RECITAL

Saturday 20th August, midday, with Tom Edwards of Rendcomb College, Cirencester, on the organ.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office is open from 9.00am to 4.00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and usually on a Tuesday morning. Staff have to move around a fair bit so please look in the Abbey if we don't answer the buzzer or, better still, phone in advance if you are planning to visit.

Parish of the Holy Cross
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