

Sunday 22nd October:

What a great service! Bishop Matthew Parker, Bishop of Stafford joined us to lead the service of Holy Communion and to officially authorise and licence Kathryn as a lay worker for funerals.

It was a really happy and uplifting service with just the right amount of humour. Bishop Matthew led the service to a nearly full church (I counted between 35 and 40 people but don't know the official numbers) ranging in age from the very young (Florence) to the not quite as young, covering most decades in between!

The official part of the service, the authorisation and licensing of Kathryn was very official and full of legalese but she declared her oath and documents were signed and delivered. Bishop Matthew asked how long she'd been performing funeral services without the license, to which Kath replied in a soft voice, very tongue in cheek "twelve years". To which Bishop Matthew replied "It's about time we made an honest woman of you!"

Kath, when asked to say a few words, responded that physically she may feel like a wreck at this time (she's not been too well with one thing and another) but spiritually she felt on top of the world. And it showed, she had a huge smile and a sparkle in her eye.

The rest of the service was just as joyful.



I, and I'm sure, most of the other people at that service went home uplifted and smiling.

We had special cup cakes to celebrate the occasion with our coffee (well, some of us did! I was persuaded to take mine home for Brian as cup cakes are very bad for me). He assured me that it was delicious as he sat eating it in front of me!

What is a lay funeral minister?

Licensed lay ministries represent the church in a public, representative or leadership role. Examples of licensed lay ministers include Readers, (also known as Licensed Lay Ministers), Church Army evangelists, lay workers and some lay pioneers.

Licensed ministers may be involved in evangelism, mission-enabling, teaching, preaching, leading of worship, taking funerals, leading a Fresh Expression and community outreach.

Licenses are issued by the diocesan bishop as required by Canon and are nationally recognised.

Monet's House and Gardens by Anne & Brian

As we drove away from the Loire Valley we recalled the beauty of what we had seen. Visits to the chateaux had been a truly wonderful experience. We would never forget the chateau at Chenonceau which seemed to be floating in the river or the many rounded towers at Chambord, even the smaller Clos-Luce manor house, where Leonardo Da Vinci died, had a charm of its own.

Our journey took us through Tours, then south-east of Paris to the small village of Giverny. The house and gardens we had come to see were those of the famous artist Claude Monet. Monet had died in 1926 and his house and garden were neglected for years during the economic depression and W2, but had been rescued and restored to their former glory by two English men.

The property was not on the scale of the chateaux, but had a charm of its own and was in part a memorial to the great impressionist who had produced over two thousand paintings. The house was quite large, with its walls painted white and pink with typical green painted shutters at the windows. Inside there was a very welcoming and happy atmosphere with lovely flowers, tulips and cinnerareas in all the rooms. The dining room was all yellow. The table, chairs cupboards were all painted yellow to match the walls and curtains. In contrast the kitchen was all blue with tiles and a clock to match. A row of copper pots gave the room a feeling of warmth. The colour scheme may seem odd but it made the whole place feel special.



We went out into Monet's beloved garden, which he enjoyed during the last twenty years of his life. In Monet's day as many as ten gardeners had worked there full time. There were flowers everywhere with, daffodils.

hyacinths and narcissus. The central path through the garden was covered by arches supporting an abundance of rose bushes, a sight to behold. As Monet became more famous and sold more



paintings he bought the house having rented it for a decade. He enlarged the pond and diverted a stream to feed it.

He built a Chinese style bridge over the pond and planted water lilies by the hundred. Around the pond he

planted weeping willows and bamboo. In the heart of France he had created a beautiful Japanese garden. The pond with its

water lilies and bridge and the garden with its flowers and trees were to be the subject

of over two hundred of

Monet's paintings.

Monet's paintings.

Initially Monet's studio was in the house but to accommodate his prodigious output, he often had ten or more large paintings on the go at the same time, he built a large studio in the garden. Now it is filled with reproductions of many of his paintings. It was a wonderful holiday with the grandeur of the chateaux and the wonderful beauty and serenity of Giverny. What more could we ask?





Prayer Corner:

As we continue to pray for the situation in Israel and Gaza, the Diocese of Lichfield encourage us to use this prayer from Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem. God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths- Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call to you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children- for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Muriel



November Services:

- ★ 5th—Family service—Kath and team
- ★ 12th—Remembrance service KH/MF
- ★ 19th—Holy Communion—Rev Barry
- ★ 26th Morning Prayer KH/MF

December Services:

- ★ 3rd- Family service—Kath and team
- ★ 10th—Carol service at 4pm
- ★ 17th—Holy communion—Rev Barry
- ★ 24th—Outdoor carol service
- ★ 24th—Midnight Communion—Rev Barry



Leek Food Bank:

We always welcome donations and promise to use them to provide help to people in crisis.

Dates for your Diary.....

Community Christmas Fayre—
Saturday 2nd December at 12 noon.



One Hundred Years On:

From Cannock Advertiser 20th October 1923 (courtesy of Cheslyn Hay & District Local History Society)

An item from the Minutes of Cheslyn Hay Parish Council.

Mr Pearson called attention to the growing practice of ice-cream sales on Sundays and trading done at sweet shops. He thought something should be done to suppress these practices, which were having a harmful influence on the young life of the village. The Chairman and other members agreed, but it was pointed out that if offenders were taken before the Magistrates, the fine was only 5s.

My Great Great Uncle Edward Pearson clearly felt strongly about these sales to youngsters on the Sabbath.(The fine would be about £14 today.)

When we consider the things available for youngsters to see, purchase and use today....well, I don't think, one hundred years later, Edward would be very impressed! What do YOU think?

Pat

Smiles: Church notices:

The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who laboured the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

22 members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.

The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.