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| GRATWICH NEWSLETTER  JULY 2025    For further information about anything in the newsletter, please contact:  Jenny Talbot: 01889 502471 email:CHURCH7Gratwich@outlook.com  Facebook: St. Mary’s Church Gratwich  **OTHER EVENTS IN THE AREA**  **FAIRTRADE COFFEE MORNING – 5th July 10am – 12noon**  ***Venue: Redfern’s Cottage Museum Carter Street Uttoxeter***  **Pop in for coffee, tea, cakes and chat and a *Raffle!***    **ST MARY & ALL SAINTS’ CHURCH, CHECKLEY 12th July**  Summer outing to Norton Priory Museum & walled garden Norton Priory Museum & Gardens, on the edge of Runcorn, is one of Cheshire's hidden gems. Once home to a medieval church, this is the most excavated monastic site in Europe. Visitors can explore the 12th century undercroft with beautiful vaulted ceiling and the priory ruins showing the layout of the medieval buildings. Afterwards calling at High Legh Garden Centre.  **Leaving Checkley Community Centre at 9.30 am**  Everyone welcome. **£23.00 per person** Contact Dilys. 07973 359824  **SUMMER FAYRE – 12th July 1-4pm**  At Stramshall Village Hall with the usual stalls, a raffle and refreshments  Children’s fancy dress competition.  Raising money for St. Michael & all Angels Church in Stramshall.  **HEAVEN SCENT – 17th August, 2- 4pm**  An interactive workshop exploring the perfumes in the Bible  At Saint Mary’s on the Heath Mission Church, Holly Road, Uttoxeter  Refreshments available. Everyone welcome  Contact The Parish Office or email:uttoxeterareaparish@outlook.com  **PRAYER MEETINGS**  Looking for someone to pray with? Why not join us in st. Mary’s church, the Market Place, Uttoxeter in the chancel, on a Monday at 9.30am, Wednesday at 9.30am or Friday. We are looking to strengthen our prayer life by offering the opportunity to meet together to pray, either silently or out  loud, on a regular basis.  St. Mary’s in Gratwich 100 Club runs from July to June each year  With 12 draws – one each month after the 4th Sunday Evening  Service in church.  Each person entering is given a number and three are drawn by members of the congregation out of a bag containing all the  numbers on bingo balls.  The prizes are:  1st - £20  2nd - £10  3rd - £5  The cost to join is £12 for the year  (£1 per month and the least you can win if your number comes out  is £5 – a good return!)  The proceeds goes towards the upkeep of the church. | GRATWICH SERVICES IN JULY  SUNDAY 13th 11.15am Holy Communion  SUNDAY 27th  7.00pm Evening Prayer  Flipping heck it is hot!!!!!  On a plus side it is good haymaking weather (that is if there is enough grass).  If hay was still made in little bales, like when I was young (many years ago!) it  would have been very tiring loading them onto the trailer and then unloading  them into the haybarn all by hand in this heat even though it was usually done in  an evening after milking.  **DON’T FORGET TO COME TO THE GRATWICH WHEELBARROW RACE**  This Saturday 5th July starting at 7.00pm – not too late to book a team or just come along and watch. There will be refreshments to buy, a raffle and some games in church afterwards. (see attached flier)  **100 CLUB – JUNE**  1st Sophia Capewell 2nd Sue Cotton 3rd Alissa Selvaggi  The next draw will be on 27th July after the service.  **The 100 club starts it’s new year in July – if you would like to join/rejoin**  **please fill in the attached form & return it to Sue with your money ASAP.**  The money raised by the 100 club is a big help towards the running costs of St. Mary’s  keeping it open for Services and Village Social Events so please join. (it’s only £12!)  **CLEANING ROTA**  Claire & Sue Capewell  **TAKING COMMUNION**  At the last Deanery Synod Meeting members discussed the ways in which the Holy Communion Wine is given to Communicants. Some churches, since Covid, have been using individual small cups – one for each person.  It seems that this is not allowed by the Church of England and the Bishops have confirmed that priests can only use either the common chalice (all sharing the one cup as traditionally) or simultaneous administration (the priest dipping the wafer into the wine). The use of individual cups or congregational individual dipping of wafer is not allowed.  Going forward we are asking what your preference is – Common cup, simultaneous administration or the rules changing making it legal to use individual cups?  Please let Jenny know if you have a preference ([jenny477@btinternet.com](mailto:jenny477@btinternet.com))  **AREA LETTER**  REDEMPTION!!  Hello,  If you’re looking for theological insight or pastoral sustenance, then this month’s Staff Letter isn’t it, sorry.  Instead, I’m going to be entirely self-centred and do a plug for something that is very close to my heart, which is my musical, ‘Redemption’.  When I was a doing my curacy in Derby Diocese, I spent time in the chaplaincy at HMP Sudbury. Sudbury is a Cat D (or ‘open’ prison), and so was a bit more relaxed about who it let in and, indeed, who it let out. As part of my time there we put on a musical called ‘Daybreak’, by Paul Field, which told the Easter story. The singers and band were a mix of inmates, chaplaincy team and people from local churches. We put on a performance at the prison and then were allowed out to perform at Etwall and the Renew church in Uttoxeter.  I have a DVD of the prison performance and, to be honest, it was a little rough around the gills, but that wasn’t the point. Even I sung a verse or two, which isn’t something I’d recommend anyone listening to, unless you like death metal or the sound of a walrus with haemorrhoids. The point was to put on something that a group of randomers could join in and enjoy doing, and it had a certain power in its rawness.  We even got a review in the Church Times.  After the shows, one of the prisoners suggested I write a musical myself. I asked him for a theme and he said, “Redemption, how about Saint Paul?” That seemed entirely appropriate for a prison and so I started writing. It took me about 10 years to complete, and another four to have the courage to try and put on, but finally, with the help of friends and one or two strangers, we are about to start choir rehearsals!  It is not too late to join in, however. Just as ‘Daybreak’ didn’t require anyone to audition, read music or be Freddie Mercury, I am inviting anyone who would like to take part in ‘Redemption’ to get in touch. We already have a fair few – so you won’t be alone – and you will have the chance to take part in a **WORLD PREMIERE** performance at Checkley Community Centre on **Saturday 11th October at 3pm**, followed by an evening performance at St. Philips, Werrington, on **Saturday 18th October**. If you’re interested, please contact Stephanie Goodwin on [sgoodwinuapreader@gmail.com](mailto:sgoodwinuapreader@gmail.com) or myself on [joecant214@gmail.com](mailto:joecant214@gmail.com) or 07592 206706. Rehearsals start on Wednesday 2nd July but won’t all be on Wednesdays.  You’re welcome to take part! After all - slightly cheesily, and a touch theologically and pastorally sustaining – ‘Redemption’ is for everyone.  Peace and prayers,  Joe (Rev. Joe Cant, Team Vicar, Uttoxeter Area of Parishes)  **ST. MARY’S IN GRATWICH 100 CLUB 2025**  NAME……………………………………………………………………………………………………..  ADDRESS…………………………………………………………………………………………………….  ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………  Tel:...................................................................................................................  Email……………………………………………………………………………………………………………  NUMBER OF ENTRIES…………..@ £12 per entry TOTAL TO PAY……….……………  Cheques Payable to: PCC GRATWICH PARISH  Bank details for direct payment:  Account name: PCC GRATWICH PARISH  Account Number: 00124548  Sort Code: 30-98-90  Your Reference (Name and 100 CLUB)  NAMES OF ENTRANTS…………………………………………………………………………………………………….  ………….…………………………………………………………………………………………………………..  ……………………………………….……………………………………………………………………………..  Please return completed form and payment to:  Mrs S Capewell, Banktop Farm, Banktop, Gratwich, Uttoxeter, Staffs. ST14 8SD  By 10th July. (Sue’s phone number 01889 502241) |