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|  GRATWICH NEWSLETTER**August 2025** Hello,I was on my way back from Stafford last week with my wife and we decided to turn off into the wilds of Gratwich and visit the church. When we got there Jeanette realised that she had been once before, probably to an Area service.The church was open, so we went in, and spend some time exploring and sitting in the stillness. I was tempted to ring the bell but was worried it might be some kind of “Vikings approaching” signal to the villagers, so will leave that until another time.Afterwards we went out into the churchyard and looked around, before stopping off at the blessed toilet. It was locked so we tried lots of obvious combinations without success. However, what a beautiful, peaceful spot, with its wildflower area and quiet, restful space inside the church itself.There are a lot of peaceful, creation-abounding spots in Gratwich but if you’re ever passing, do drop into the church, because it is unique (and 250 years old this year, so look out for the 250th anniversary service on 14th September at 2.30pm).Peace and prayers, Joe**CENTENARY SERVICE 14TH SEPTEMBER – 2.30pm**Last September we celebrated the completion of the Church Toilet at St. Mary’s in Gratwich with the Bishop of Lichfield coming to bless it.This year as well as celebrating St. Mary's Patronal Festival, we are also celebrating the anniversary of the rebuilding of the Nave in 1775 (any excuse for a party!) on Sunday 14th September.We have the Venerable Dr. Megan Smith, Archdeacon of Stoke on Trent coming to lead the service for us.There will be a display of all things St. Mary’s and Gratwich with tea & Cake afterwards (of course!) so please do come along.If you have any information, photos, letters, documents from any time in the past we could copy or borrow for the day please let Carolyn know.Carolyn Hollins Tel: 01889 502680email: carolyn.hollins117@gmail.com | GRATWICH SERVICES IN AUGUST SUNDAY 10th **11.15am Holy Communion** SUNDAY 24th  **7.00pm Evening Prayer** SUNDAY 31st **10.00am Area Service** at St. Mary’s in the Market Place, UttoxeterWhat a fantastic evening we had last month at our Wheelbarrow Racing Evening, a new venture for Gratwich.16 Teams of very competitive racers tackled the course around the church croft withthe passenger in the wheelbarrow carrying a glass of water and cheered on by the many spectators. We then all went into church for a hot dog supper and a very welcome cup of tea. Congratulations to the winning teams – Will & Julie and Fin & Arlo.Many thanks to all who took part (Very Brave passengers!) and everyone who helped organise the event.We don’t have anything organised for August – let us know if there is anything you fancy doing (or organising) and we will have a go. (Jenny 01889 502471)**From - Rev MARGARET LOWE**As you may be aware after 9 years as Rector of Uttoxeter I am leaving the Uttoxeter area as I have been appointed as vicar of Norbury Parish Church, Hazel Grove, Stockport. My Licensing date is Friday 19th September at 7pm and all are welcome to attend. Today marks my return from Extended Study Leave and I look forwards to being with you over the next few weeks before my final service on Sunday 31st August at St Marys, Uttoxeter at 10am. Stephen and I thank you for your continued prayers and support as we say good bye.(There is a card wishing Margaret well from Gratwich. If anyone would like to sign the card or contribute to her leaving present please contact Carolyn (01889 502680)Please do go to her final service on the 31st and wish her well for the future.)**CONDOLENCES**We send our love and condolences to Albert Marston and his family on the passing of Ursulla. Such a lovely lady who we will greatly miss.Her funeral will be held at St. John’s Church, Stowe by Chartley on Tuesday 12th August at 11.00am**LADIES LUNCH – 16th September** We thought we would go out for a Ladies Lunch in September – maybe Amerton Farm or Cobwebs in Abbots Bromley? Other suggestions welcome. Let Sue (01889 502241) know where you would like to go by 14th August so she can book.**100 CLUB – JULY-** drawn at the PCC Meeting on the 28th July 1st Jack Mottram (80) 2nd Rob & Charlotte (33) 3rd Lynn Hulin (31)The next draw will be on 24th August after the service.We have 96 members of the 100 club this year, there still time to join for the remaining eleven months – let’s see if we can get 100 members this time.**CLEANING ROTA**  - Jenny Talbot & Carol Woolley **HEAVEN SCENT – 17th August 2.00-5.00pm**In The Heath Mission Church, Holly Road, UttoxeterTake part in an afternoon of creative fun exploring scents and smells from the Bible.An interactive workshop where you can mix and create perfumes that would have been used at the time when Jesus was on earth.Everyone Welcome – contact Nicola - uttoxeterareaparish@outlook.com to book a place. Tea & Cake too!**UTTOXETER ST. MARY’S CHURCH BELLS**The church bells will be returning on the 15th August and once again they will announce the time during the day.Go and see them before they are installed into the tower.Viewing days are: 15th – 10am – 4pm 16th – 10am – 12noon 17th – 11am – 4pm**USED STAMPS & INK CARTRIDGES**If you have any used stamps there is a box in church for them – Collecting for the RNIB.Also St. Mary’s in Uttoxeter are collecting glasses for the Lions and Printer Ink Cartridges (used and unused) to raise money for MS research. They are open on a Wednesday. as is their café serving tea and cake.For further information about anything in the newsletter, please contact: Jenny Talbot: 01889 502471 email: jenny477@btinternet.comRev Joe Cant 07592206706 Facebook: St. Mary’s Church Gratwich |