



Family News September 2019

A huge thank you to you all from the Cansdales

Wow! Eleven and a half years have flown past! I reckon I've just about got the hang of this being a Team Rector lark now - for the first couple of years I kept saying 'Welcome to St. Giles' instead of 'Welcome to St. Mary's' and then we had those few years when I would often say 'You are ALL most welcome' which too many heard differently as 'You are almost welcome!' Good job time and time again, even when I got it wrong, people seek me out to tell me what a warm and genuine welcome they receive here.

Thanks for putting up with the pink laces, and all the presents of laces that I have received over the years.

Thanks for putting up with the clerical shirts (I agreed with one of you that a polite word for most of them was 'adventurous' but most of you use a different one...)

Thanks for not being too cross that we are going. We feel the grief and the anticipated loss very keenly too. But we can hardly talk about the value of being a 'going' church and then not be ready to go where God calls us next.

Thanks for seeing that I am sensitive as well as silly.

Thanks for being ready to jump on board with the new ideas - some of the best of them have come from you actually!

Thanks for the amazing ways in which you all serve, pray and listen unseen or barely seen.

Thanks for all the times that you have shared with us about your real struggles, fears and joys. We've loved being part of a church that is learning to be authentic and doesn't do the 'let's pretend that everything is just grand' thing.

Thanks that when we do the big and beautiful things it always feels like we have a shared value - it's all for God's glory. It makes all the sweat and toil worth it!

All our love and prayers

Simon, Naomi, George, Assi and Harry

Open House at The Rectory

We want to be able to say proper goodbyes and thank you and we know that sometimes at Sunday services things are a bit frantic. Therefore we would like to invite anyone who would like a cup of tea, scone etc to drop by at The Rectory on Sunday 15th September.

No need to book, just drop in anytime from 3 - 6 pm and we will make you very welcome. All ages most welcome.

Simon & Naomi

Confirmation

The wider parish will be hosting Bishop Rod Thomas for a Confirmation service on Sunday 22nd September at St. Mary's at 6pm. This is a great family occasion, as people come forward to declare their faith in Jesus having had promises made on their behalf at their baptism. The service celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit to all who put their trust in Jesus, and symbolises this by the Bishop laying hands on the head of each person as they are confirmed. Please can you let Josh know **today** (associate@cheshamchurch.co.uk, 01494786789) if you are interested – there is still time to get involved, just!

Family Update



Radio 4 Any Questions

Julian Worricker and a panel will be coming to St. Mary's to record Any Questions on Friday 13th September in front of a live audience. It's a genuinely riveting experience and your question might be heard by the nation! We have about 120 tickets available to people in the Parish and we would really love to welcome you and any guests that you would like to bring on the night. The tickets are free and there will be refreshments afterwards.

To book your tickets please email parishoffice@greatchesham.org.uk or ring 01494 783629 (remember to tell us which district church you attend so that we can get the tickets to you). It's on a 'first come first served' basis so please act quickly.

You are invited to join us for Autumn Fun!

A morning of fun for children in Reception to Year 6 - St.Mary's Church Rooms on Sunday 29th September.

All children start in Church at 10am. Pick up at 11.30am from Church Rooms.

Come along to enjoy craft, baking, sports, bouncy castle, bible story, jigsaws & board games. The morning will be followed by a farewell lunch for The Cansdales.

Please contact Hannah Martin (children@cheshamchurch.co.uk, 784574) for more information.

Emma Musaki and Allison

Emma entered UK in 2003 from Burundi. Her claim to asylum failed but she was allowed to stay pending safer conditions. In 2007 she made a further claim which the authorities took 7 years to decide before her claim was refused with no right of appeal. No steps were taken to remove Emma from UK and in 2018 further submissions were filed on her behalf, with additional claims relating to Allison, born in August 2017.

In February 2018 Emma had to seek public assistance, at first provided by Bucks C.C. whose help enabled Emma to reside in her flat in Chesham. In April 2019 Bucks passed duty to support Emma to I.A., whose provision is meagre. She must live where directed, in one room for self and Allison, and, while receiving support, is forbidden to work.

Emma's claims are still pending and Dame Cheryl Gillan MP was recently told by I.A. that no estimate can be given of timescale for decision, which could come next week or months, or....years?.. ahead. Also unknown until decision is whether there will or will not be a further right of appeal.

Emma craves to return to Chesham but the only solution until her case is decided is whether benefactors exist who, for a time whose length is open-ended, could provide both accommodation and means of support.

Geoff Wicks

Men's Breakfast - Sat. 21st Sept - 8.30am - Emmanuel Church

Renowned writer / speaker Stephen Gaukroger asks

" Faith in an age of reason . Does it make sense "

Info. from Duncan Passey (duncanandtessa@hotmail.com or Simon Brown (Simon.Brown@ashmill.co.uk)

Farewell Service for the Cansdale Family

On Sunday 29th September, there will be one combined service to celebrate and give thanks for the years the Cansdales have been with us. We will start at 10am with a Service of Holy Communion and thanksgiving to God for all He has done over the last 11 years.

The service will be followed by refreshments as normal, then from midday we will share a special lunch together including hog and lamb roasts. After lunch we will meet back in church for a "final roasting" of Simon to send him and the rest of the Cansdale family on their way.

We do hope you will be able to join in with the celebration and thanksgiving as well as enjoy the various "roasts of the day"!

To accommodate visiting guests, please could church family park in Watermeadow Car Park, rather than The Bury, if at all possible.