

Moses and Aaron

As we approach May 19th and the return of our paintings I look back on the many visits we have made, the hours we have spent looking at records and books and talking to many people.

I have visited Vanessa Andrew (conservator) three times at the Williamson Art Gallery in Birkenhead and have been fortunate to see the progress of her work. We could not be sure of anything as we set out on the journey of this project but her skill is such that she achieved even more than she expected originally. She patiently answered my questions so that I could pass information on making it possible for us to learn about the whole process of conservation of paintings.

Germaine Denn (gilder and framer) has become a friend of similar character. Very patient and skilled in her work and explanation of processes. Very willing to show how she achieves her results. By the time the paintings are ready to be returned I will also have visited her three times.

At the moment Moses and Aaron are still in Birkenhead but on May 15th they will be transported from Vanessa's studio to Germaine's in Liverpool where the pictures will be refitted into their frames. I felt very honoured to be asked if I would like to help do this. It promises to be a busy few days.

I would like to thank the many people from our congregation who have offered ideas, information and help. Your support has been appreciated particularly when I was seemingly at a dead end. It gave me 'thinking space' and showed me that there were others who were interested in our history, not just about the paintings but about the LNWR, the Crewe family, pictures of Moses and Aaron in other churches, Jewish people relating to the people who may have modelled for the paintings and so on. The list is lengthy but all showing interest in what was happening. The research is still not quite complete but hopefully is coming nearer to its end so that the information can be written down for future reference.

Valerie Allan

Barthomley Fun Day 2019

Saturday 29th June 12.00 - 6.00 pm
(Live Music till 10.00)

Live Music, Steam engines, Children's funfair
Stalls, Games, Refreshments, Tower Tours,

Parking £5 a car, free entry

Helpers needed. Come and join us!

Facebook: Barthomley fun day
Email: barthomleyfunday@btinternet.com
Telephone: Jo 07776 132818

St Bertoline's –Why we're here.

That the community we serve may know that St Bertoline's is here to profess the faith, to celebrate it in worship and prayer, and to share it in fellowship, so that we may say, "We would see Jesus".

The Rectory
April 20th 2019

Barthomley

My dear Friends,

The saga of our North Aisle roof rivals any Whitehall Farce for 'bumblingness' – if there is such a word: there is now! Having had a previous experience of our poor aisle's leaden roof being stolen, the possibility of alternative material was investigated. It soon became clear that the sole possibility was to use stainless steel. Permission for such change was sought, and granted by the church's powers that be in such matters, but upon condition – that the local planning authority's consent be obtained. Month followed month without approval forthcoming. But then we were asked to withdraw our application because the matter was within the terms of the Ecclesiastical Exemption rules. These state that the Church of England has jurisdiction over its own buildings – at least, within reason. In any case, who could see what material was used as roof covering.

Now all is said, what about the doing? Well it seems that necessary scaffolding is to be set up in the first week of May, then the second week is promised to see the work begin on the stainless steel covering itself. Hurrah!

While we speak of restorations, May is also to see the return to their rightful home of the paintings of Moses and Aaron, restored to their former glory. May 19th, at 10.30am, is the occasion when they are to be unveiled and re-dedicated. Val Alan and her assistant honorary sleuths have delved and pried into many a dark and remote corner of churchy and railway history to discover where they came from, where they disappeared to for sixty-odd years, from where they originated and as to who was the artist. Nothing definitive is resolved as yet, but the strongest lead appears to be somewhat tied up with the LNWR's interest in the building of Christ Church, Crewe.

Do come and share in the shelter of our rainproof N. Aisle and gaze in wonder at our returned sorely missed brothers.

Not least of May's events will be the marriage of two stalwart members of our church family – Ian Atherton and Edit Fillingham – on May 23rd. We wish them every joy.

May 30th is not only Ascension Day (Holy Communion 10.30am) but also when the Choir will be entertaining to dinner Gill and Dennis Thorley in thanks for her effort over thirteen years in every corner of our church's musical life and worship.

Angela and I send our best wishes to you all.
Darrel Speedy



Retirement of our Musical Director

Easter Sunday, that glorious day when we celebrate The Lord's Resurrection, was bright and sunny. As is usual the "flower ladies" had given the worshippers a beautifully adorned and colourful church in which to celebrate a most important day in the Church calendar.

Easter Sunday on 21 April however was tinged with some sadness as we knew it to be the last day we would see our musical director Gill Thorley conducting our splendid choir for what was to be her final service.

Gill became Musical Director when Kingsley Evans's ill health meant he had to relinquish his role. We are indebted to Gill over the many years that she approached the role with such enthusiasm. She introduced the congregation to many stirring and joyful anthems to celebrate occasions such as Christmas, Easter, Whitsuntide, and also our Saints Day, Candlemas etc.

An anthem might be shown on the service sheet several times during the year, and following the service many of us would speak of the uplifting and joyous feelings it brought.

Gill introduced St Bertoline's to many composers, but her enthusiasm for John Rutter's anthems and music was particularly evident and his compositions left so many Sunday worshippers enthusiastic and uplifted too.

Of course our gratitude also goes to Dennis for his support in printing the material for special services over the years.

As John Rutter himself said; "Choral music is not one of life's frills. It's something that goes to the very heart of our humanity, our sense of community and our souls".

Thank you Gill for making us appreciate how important choral music is for our humanity, and hence for our souls.

You will be missed.



Vera Bennion

WI 7th May. RESOLUTIONS

Hostesses: Committee.

Flowers: S Speed.

You will be relieved to hear that the title for our speaker's talk last month; "Handcuffs, Truncheons and Polyester Thongs" did not involve dubious underwear or send us to bed with nightmares! Gina Kirkham was a police officer turned author and she was inspirational! She told us that in 1988 whilst riding her bike she decided that she wanted to follow her life-long ambition and join the Police Force – to give something back and to make a difference. Her self-belief had always been nurtured by her mother who told her that she could achieve anything if she put her mind to it.

The account of her journey with the Merseyside Police was honest and funny. She was a police officer for 26 years working eventually in child protection and serious the sex offences department. She told us that she didn't find any barriers being a woman, however of course she did suggest that you could find yourself working twice as hard to be thought half as good. Finding it a little hard to move on in retirement Gina picked up her pen and started to write. She told us that it proved to be a cathartic and healing process taking her 18 months in all to write. Since then Gina has written two more novels – all based on the character of Mavis who followed her dream to be a police officer – ring a bell?



THE PASSOVER SUPPER

On Maundy Thursday the annual celebration of the Passover Supper took place in Barthomley Village Hall. Tables were set with white tablecloths and candlesticks. On the top table a large bone from a lamb shank lay prominently in view. Following Jewish custom all were reminded of the purpose of the meal which is eaten in memory of and thanksgiving for the liberation of the children of Israel from slavery and bondage in Egypt recorded in the Book of Exodus. The Pharaoh of Egypt was very reluctant to give these Jewish workers their freedom but after enduring ten terrible plague sent by God he told their leader Moses that they could go. Moses instructed the Israelites to daub their doorposts with the blood from a sacrificed lamb so that the avenging angels delivering the last plague which targeted all the first born children and animals would 'pass over' their houses leaving them unharmed. We ate parsley dipped in salt to represent the tears shed in suffering, charoset (skilfully prepared by Pam Freeman from apples, nuts and wine) to represent the mortar used by the Jewish slaves on the Egyptian building sites, and bitter herbs (horseradish) together with unleavened bread. In Jewish tradition unleavened bread and matzos are eaten at Passover to symbolise the speed at which people had to prepare for their departure. They couldn't wait for yeast to prove. We also drank red wine and finally quite delicious soup prepared for us by Chris Bailey and Jackie Rockey. Afterwards there was an opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist in church led by Darrel, Angela and Mike Elkin.

Mary Morris