

**The Parish Magazine**  
**St Andrew's Church**  
**Old Headington**



**May 2021**

**50p**

## PARISH DIRECTORY

[www.standrewsheadington.co.uk](http://www.standrewsheadington.co.uk)

Enquiries about marriage and baptism should be made directly to the Vicar, by telephone or email.

The Clergy will gladly visit and (if requested) bring Holy Communion to people who are ill at home or in hospital, by arrangement.

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**THE NORMAN ARCH** is published on the last Saturday of each month.

*The parish magazine is named after the splendid Norman chancel arch in the church.*

Editor	Fr Darren McFarland
Sub-Editor	Vacant

**Deadline for next issue: 20<sup>th</sup> of each month**

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# May Calendar

1 S	Philip and James, Apostles Wedding		noon
2 Sun	<b>5th SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>Parish Eucharist</b>	<b>BCP</b>	<b>8.00am</b> <b>10.00am</b>
3 M	Eucharist		9.30am
4 T	English Saints & Martyrs of the Reformation Era		none
5 W	Eucharist	BCP	10.00am
6 Th	Eucharist		7.30 pm
7 F	Artweeks set-up		none
8 S	Julian of Norwich Start Art at St Andrew's		12 - 6pm
9 Sun	<b>6th SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>Parish Eucharist</b>	<b>BCP</b>	<b>8.00am</b> <b>10.00am</b>
10 M	Eucharist		9.30am
11 T			none
12 W	Eucharist	BCP	10.00am
13 Th	<b>Ascension Day</b> Eucharist		7.30pm
14 F	Matthias, the Apostle		none
15 S			none
16 Sun	<b>7th SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>Parish Eucharist</b>	<b>BCP</b>	<b>8.00am</b> <b>10.00am</b>
17 M	Eucharist		9.30am
18 T			none
19 W	Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury Eucharist	BCP	10.00am
20 Th	Alcuin of York Eucharist		7.30pm
21 F			none
22 S			none
23 Sun	<b>FEAST OF PENTECOST</b> <b>Parish Eucharist</b>	<b>BCP</b>	<b>8.00am</b> <b>10.00am</b>
24 M	John and Charles Wesley Eucharist		9.30am
25 T	The Venerable Bede		none
26 W	Augustine, Archbishop of Canterbury Eucharist	BCP	10.00am
27 Th	Eucharist		7.30pm
28 F			none
29 S			none
30 Sun	<b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b> <b>Parish Eucharist</b>	<b>BCP</b>	<b>8.00am</b> <b>10.00am</b>
31 M	<b>Visit of the BVM to Elizabeth</b> Eucharist		9.30am

## From the Registers

### Funerals

28<sup>th</sup> April

Julia Samson

## May Readings

### 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Old Testament  
Psalm  
New Testament  
Gospel

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 8.26 - end  
22.25-end  
1 John 4.7 - end  
John 15.1-8

### 9<sup>th</sup> May

Old Testament  
Psalm  
New Testament  
Gospel

### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 10.44 - end  
98  
1 John 5.1-6  
John 15.9-7

### 13<sup>th</sup> May

Old Testament  
Psalm  
New Testament  
Gospel

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 1.15-17, 21 - end  
1  
1 John 5.9-13  
John 17.6-19

### 20<sup>th</sup> May

Old Testament  
Psalm  
New Testament  
Gospel

### Feast of Pentecost

Ezekiel 17.1-14  
104.26-end  
Acts 2.1-21  
John 15.26-27; 16.4-15

### 27<sup>th</sup> May

Old Testament  
Psalm  
New Testament  
Gospel

### Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6.1-8  
29  
Romans 8.12-17  
John 3.1-17

### LENT CHARITY 2021



**restore**  
working for mental health

Thank you to everyone who supported our Lent Appeal. We have just sent almost £600 to Restore.

### Front cover

*Detail from a window in the church room*

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor.

No responsibility can be taken for advertising statements published.

# MISSION OF THE MONTH

## Christian Aid Week 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021



*'Let us love, not in word or speech  
but in truth and action'  
(1 John 3.18)*

Christian Aid is an international development organisation that works with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to.

Christian Aid has for more than 70 years provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights.

As I mentioned in last month's Norman Arch, each year more than half the money raised in Christian Aid Week comes from house to house collections, but of course last year was entirely different, and no collection could take place. This as well as other factors has had a significant effect on Christian Aid's finances, and it has had to lay off staff and reduce the scope of its work. Yet of course the poorest people in the world are no less needy than before, and famine is a very real danger this year in several regions. We will again not be undertaking a house to house collection this year, but this does certainly not mean that we cannot raise money successfully, just as we did last year.

Current Christian Aid appeals and programmes include:

**Coronavirus Emergency Appeal.** Christian Aid is responding to the coronavirus outbreak in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. They are working together with partners and faith leaders to inform people about the risks, offering vital hygiene training, equipping health facilities with supplies, and providing food packages to the most marginalised families.

**Rohingya Crisis Appeal – Forgotten Children.** The Rohingya crisis has left many children without a family or home, stuck on the border of Bangladesh in one of the world's largest refugee camps. Conditions in the camps are incredibly difficult and children are particularly vulnerable. Christian Aid's local partners on the ground have provided food, clean water, dignity kits and shelter. Christian Aid provides child-friendly spaces in the refugee camp, allowing children to learn and play and receive emotional support.

**Humanitarian response in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).** DRC is affected by one of the world's most complex and long-standing humanitarian crises. Ongoing violence, compounded by the recent Ebola epidemic, has caused massive displacement of people, particularly in the east of the country. Christian Aid are working with local partners in North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Kasai to respond to the urgent humanitarian situation.

**North East Nigeria Humanitarian Response.** Over nearly a decade, the humanitarian crisis in north-east Nigeria has become one of the most severe in the world: 1.8 million people remain internally displaced, human rights violations continue to be reported daily, and the food security situation remains extremely concerning. Christian Aid's response has focused on food security and livelihoods, including food distribution and feeding programmes for pregnant women, new mothers and very young children. The programme has also provided life-saving water, sanitation and hygiene work, constructing and fixing boreholes, building and maintaining toilets and showers and has also provided protection and psycho-social support for affected communities.

**Making Agriculture a Business.** This programme improves livelihood and economic resilience of women and marginalised groups in Zambia. It aims to harness the potential of small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs as champions of economic development mainly in the four districts of Chisamba, Kapiri Mposhi, Kabwe and Mumbwa in Central Province, Zambia. Selected subsistence farmer and entrepreneurs are empowered to effectively harness business opportunities for economic growth by acquiring the relevant business skills, organisational capacity and access to resources for application in their businesses.

On the Sundays either side of Christian Aid week we will have special envelopes in Church that you can use to make a donation.

We will also have a limited number of “drop-off” envelopes available to take away. If you know someone personally who regularly gives to Christian Aid, who lives locally to you, you can post one of these envelopes through their letterbox. The envelope contains space for you to write a brief instruction, explaining that the envelope should be returned by posting it through your letterbox and/or the vicarage letterbox.

In addition, we have created a special Christian Aid fundraising page for online donations

<https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/standrews-caw2021>



Please consider whether you would like to undertake a sponsored fundraising event, which could be virtually anything you like subject to any ongoing COVID restrictions. Friends and colleagues are usually very happy to support such activities, and undertaking them can be a great deal of fun in itself. The main thing is to raise money so that Christian Aid can continue with their vital work. I myself will be undertaking a sponsored walk in the summer, with the location to depend upon COVID restrictions at the time.

Thank you.

**Nigel Voak**  
**750084**



**Please recycle  
your copy of  
the Norman  
Arch**



**Thy Kingdom Come** is a global prayer movement. It is an open invitation to Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost each year that more people will come to know Jesus. It started in May 2016 and since then has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of a possibility into an established movement spanning the globe.

### **Taking Part**

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen and further their own relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for 5 of their friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness.

### **Context**

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered together with Mary. They constantly devoted themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We are like the disciples gathering together in hope as without the Holy Spirit we are powerless.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at this time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. As the name suggests, 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition. Gradually, more and more communities of worship have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come Holy Spirit'.

Mothers' Union will be holding a virtual Thy Kingdom Come service on Friday 14th May at 2pm. Please check out the MU Facebook page or YouTube channel if you would like to watch it too.

You might like to use these prayers that will be used every day by MU members across the world during these 11 days:

Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your people  
and kindle in us the fire of your love.  
God of our salvation,  
hope of all the ends of the earth,  
we pray: Thy kingdom come. Amen

We go with faith in Christ  
who taught us to pray thy Kingdom come;  
to witness his love throughout the world. Amen

**Alison Bennett**





## **Art at St Andrew's 2021**

**Site 113**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May  
12 – 6 pm**

Oxfordshire Artweeks has put in place plans for a physical exhibition this year and Art at St Andrew's intends to be open as a Covid-secure site. We have completed a risk assessment based on our own St Andrew's Church guidelines for safe meeting for public worship and Artweeks Covid-19 Policy. This is on display on the porch notice board. It includes clear signage of a one-way system through church: entrance at the front door and exit through the door in the church room. Open doors, hand sanitisers, regular clean down and the wearing of masks will be standard. Exhibitors will be well-spaced out in church and in the church room. A total of 20 people to be in the whole building at any one time.

In the hope that our exhibition will be open in May, we have the commitment of seven artists and we are grateful that they have agreed to take part under these circumstances.

We welcome back and give greetings to new exhibitors:

Alison Soskice: Paintings: Watercolour paintings; some more abstract than others.

Amy Surman: Jewellery: Handmade silver jewellery using traditional & contemporary methods.

Anna Brooke: Paintings: Paintings and drawings in acrylic, pastel and charcoal;

Bharat Patel: Photography: 'Recurring dreams of Oxford' - carefully blended photos that transform Oxford into a dreamland.

Julia Sotkiewicz: Glass: Giving new life to things that are destined to be thrown away. I create recycled glass lamps and glass paintings. I use glass items for this (bottles, vases, etc) often purchased at charity shops as well.

Kashmira Patel: Ceramics: Hand built ceramics, abstract and organic forms.

Nelly Stanbury: Ceramics: Wheel-thrown and hand-built stoneware ceramics.

You can see our Art at St Andrew's page at:  
<https://www.artweeks.org/festival/2021/art-st-andrews>

This year's May festival includes 250 Covid-secure venues to visit, some close to church and you can browse by location to find them. You can also look at hundreds of video and on-line exhibitions over in the Artweeks Art Showcase

There will be sign-up sheets in church for anyone who feels comfortable to be part of the stewarding of the event. Refreshments will not be offered to visitors this year.

Here's hoping!

**Julie Ifill**

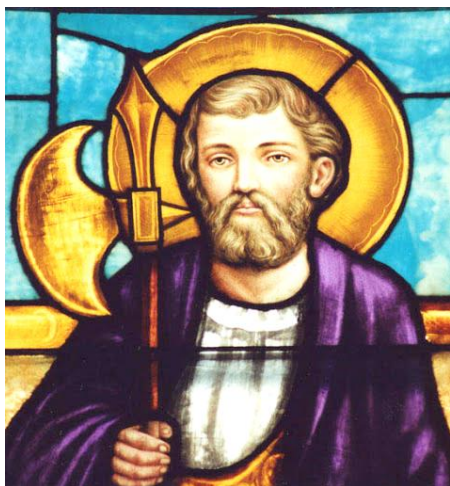
**Art at St Andrew's Co-ordinator**

## *From the Vicar*

One of my greatest moans at school was that we played rugby in the autumn and spring terms when it was cold and the ground was wet, but always cricket and cross country in the summer term when there was a hint of Irish sunshine. Apart from the cold wet grass I liked rugby and my physical shape meant that the team captains liked to have me on their team and I got chosen early in the selection unlike my skinny friends! However, the tables were turned when it came to cricket and cross country – one I did not understand and the other involved way too much sustained energy. Of course, as the weekly humiliating ritual of dividing 50 boys into two teams for cricket or running began I knew I was not to be in the top 20 for either pursuit. As the group of those still to be chosen got smaller and smaller the captains would begin to moan about the specimens that were left. 'Oh no, sir, not McFarland, he doesn't know the rules of crickets and he walks most of the cross country route! Of course, cricket was taken too seriously at my school to allow the likes of me near the crease and so the cross-country captain was made to have me. Week after week there was no getting out of it, even I had to be chosen!

The Apostle Matthias, whose festival we celebrate on the 14<sup>th</sup> May and whose selection we heard about in our first reading, is a man with a not dissimilar story to tell. Matthias is the person chosen by the apostles to replace Judas Iscariot. We do not know whether it had always been his ambition to be of the number of the Twelve; we do

not know why he wasn't chosen with the first batch of disciples. All that the Acts of the Apostles tells us is that he had been around from the time of John the Baptist and had remained with Jesus' followers until the Ascension. And yet this Matthias, of whom we know so little, is the man called by God from the substitute's bench to replace the traitor Judas and so to become an Apostle of Jesus Christ.



But there is also an important distinction to be drawn between being the last to be chosen for a school team and being the last of the apostles to be called. At school it was the captain who chose the members of the team, egged-on by those whom he had already chosen. With Matthias, it is not the apostles who have the final say in his selection; they establish the criteria, they identify two possible candidates; but it is God who calls, not the apostles; it is God who chooses, not us.

So often, we tend to feel that in a culture which surrounds with so many possible choices, we have chosen God, we have chosen to become Christians, we have chosen to be ordained - as if God should be grateful for what we have done for him! Now this, surely, is an arrogance, which suggests that we know better than God, that we are in a position to decide whether we are a part of his team, or not. Yes, we are in a position to reject God's call, to turn our back, to follow our own path. Matthias, himself, would have been free to refuse to walk the costly path of an apostle that, according to tradition, took him to preach the gospel in Ethiopia where in the end he was executed for his faith. But the decision we make is our response to God's call, our response, not our initiative. We never begin the divine conversation, which is the life of discipleship; it is always God's call, God's promise, God's love, God's life, God's initiative.

Fr Darren



## Open Gardens Day

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### PLANT STALL for OPEN GARDENS DAY

The Growers Group are planning the plant stall, to be held on the grass outside the vicarage on Open Gardens Day on Sunday 4 July.

We would be grateful for offers of plants, small or large, to sell. Proceeds go to the Friends of Old Headington to fund enhancements to the village environment.

Please contact Alison Soskice (01865 760695) or [asoskice@talktalk.net](mailto:asoskice@talktalk.net) if you would like to join the group, help on the day or have plants to donate. We could collect nearer the time.



### SPECIAL OCCASION CARDS & PRAYER CARDS

We have a collection of beautiful greeting cards with an inspirational verse designed by Just Cards Direct.

The greeting cards are in the Bookstall to the right of the main door as you enter church. Just Cards Direct work in partnership with projects in Rwanda, South Africa and Kenya and give the majority of their profits to Christian charities.

We also have a stand with prayer cards at the back of church.

## CHURCH GARDEN



*'You like po-tay-toe and I like po-tar-to,  
you like to-may-to and I like to-mar-toe..'  
Ira and George Gershwin*

I do like potatoes especially those little new ones, where the skin just rubs off, cooked with mint and a little butter. I also adore tomatoes, sliced with basil or maybe lightly roasted. In fact, home grown potatoes and tomatoes are just simply tastier than anything you can buy. So, the good news is that it's not too late to plant potatoes and tomatoes. Just 5 seed potatoes, (I grow 'Charlotte'), either in the ground, a pot or grow bag and 2 or 3 tomato plants can provide a good crop. Growing your own vegetables is great fun and encourages us to get out into the fresh air. It's good for the environment as there are no 'food miles' involved in growing your own and it provides pollen and nectar. My children used to get excited to visit Granny when it was time to harvest the first potatoes. There is fun to be had counting, weighing, cooking and eating what has just been lifted from the ground. Gardening is fundamental to being human, farming skills changed us from being nomadic 'hunter/gatherers' into settled communities. In our busy lives, it's still important for our children to learn that food comes from the earth not in plastic bags from the supermarket.

This year, the Easter Garden was outside, the sun was shining and we were able to sing! The Garden was a beautiful, physical representation of the Easter Story. I always feel something rather special when we are outside. The Palm Sunday procession, Remembrance Day service, Christmas Tree lighting and not forgetting the Easter Egg Hunt are all highly symbolic, and emotional. I'm sure many of you enjoy these occasions as much as I do.

Now that Covid restrictions are being lifted, I am delighted to invite you all to come to St Andrews inaugural 'Plant bring and swap/buy' event on Saturday May 22nd at 11am. There will be plenty of plants, cake and a tour of the Churchyard Garden. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our garden, with special emphasis on Maryian plants and medicinal herbs. There will be flowers and vegetables, including tomatoes, courgettes and pumpkins. If you who took up the '1 pack of seed' challenge, please bring your spare plants. Of course, everyone is welcome, you don't have to bring anything but yourself and a smile!

I thought April was the 'yellow' month, but May is definitely 'pink'. All shades from off-white through to candy pink and crimson. Cherry trees, Crab apples and all the other blossoms are giving us a wonderful show. The colours are set off by the new leaves-lime green, pale sage and delicate bronze. Everywhere is fresh and new. The days are long, but we can still have cold nights. The tulips are centre stage while the forget-me-nots as the daffodils and primroses take a back seat. The two old May trees will soon be blooming and the buds of the lilac will open into purple flowers with delicious perfume. The borders are looking lovely. I am amazed to see the variety of different bulbs which have been flowering since the first snowdrops in January. There are lots of bluebells, some of which are pink and white. I am sure these are true English bluebells as they have delicate flowering stems with the florets facing downwards and slim leaves.

I wonder if anyone would be able to take on a small regular gardening job? Keeping the borders dead headed and the paths swept and weeded goes a long way to presenting our best face. Another task is to water the new hydrangeas and new plants in dry weather. Please let me know if you could offer some help. This years' project is to clear the thick ground ivy under the yew tree and on the grave stones. It is rather out of control and is smothering the beautiful cyclamen and other native flowers. I would very much appreciate any help with this task, again, please speak to me and we can make a plan. Many hands do make light work.

Please keep giving me your feedback, I'm always happy to hear your opinions.

Happy gardening to you all and stay safe

**Best wishes  
Jane Shepherd**



## Notes from the Organ Bench

*'Now is the month of maying,  
When merry lads are playing,  
Fa la la la la la la la la,'*

"Now is the month of maying" is one of the most famous of the English balletts (a light dancelike part song similar to a madrigal, frequently with a 'fa-la-la' chorus). It was written by Thomas Morley and published in his First Book of Ballets to Five Voyces (1595).

The song delights in bawdy double-entendre. It is apparently about spring dancing, but this is a metaphor for making love. For example, a "barley-break" would have suggested outdoor activity (rather like we might say a "roll in the hay"). The use of such imagery and puns increased during the Renaissance.

The ballett forms a key part of Oxford's May Morning celebrations, where the choir of Magdalen College sing the verses from the roof of the college's Great Tower.



*May Morning on Magdalen College Tower*  
William Holman Hunt (1827–1910)

But who was Thomas Morley and what do we know of his life? We know that he was born in Norwich, the son of a brewer. Most likely he was a singer in the local cathedral from his boyhood, and he became master of choristers there in 1583. However, it is assumed that Morley moved from Norwich Cathedral sometime before 1574 to be a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral because he was working as a singer in London in the 1570s and appears to have studied with William Byrd. While the dates he studied with Byrd are not known, they were most likely in the early 1570s. In his 1597 publication *A Plain and Easie Introduction to Practicall Musicke*, Morley mentions Byrd as his mentor. In 1588, at the age of 30, he received his bachelor's degree from the University of Oxford, and shortly thereafter was employed as organist at St. Paul's in London. His young son died the following year in 1589. He and his wife Susan had

three children between 1596 and 1600. He may have been a Roman Catholic, like Byrd. He was able to avoid prosecution as a recusant, and there is evidence that he may have been an informer on the activities of Roman Catholics.

Morley lived for a time in the same parish as Shakespeare, and a connection between the two has been long speculated, but never proven. His famous setting of "It was a lover and his lass" from *As You Like It* has never been established as having been used in a performance of Shakespeare's play during the playwright's lifetime. However, given that the song was published in 1600, there is evidently a possibility that it was used in stage performances.

While Morley attempted to imitate the spirit of Byrd in some of his early sacred works, it was in the form of the madrigal that he made his principal contribution to music history. His work in the genre has remained in the repertory to the present day, and shows a wider variety of emotional colour, form and technique than anything by other composers of the period.

In addition to his madrigals, Morley wrote instrumental music, including keyboard music (some of which has been preserved in the Fitzwilliam Virginal Book), and music for the broken consort, a uniquely English ensemble of two viols, flute, lute, cittern (the cittern was a premier instrument of casual music-making during the renaissance much as the guitar is today) and bandora (a large long-necked plucked string-instrument that can be regarded as a bass cittern).

Thomas Morley was buried in the graveyard of the church of St Botolph Billingsgate, which was destroyed in the Great Fire of London of 1666, and not rebuilt. Thus his grave is lost. During Lent, in normal times, we have occasionally sung Thomas Morley's anthem *Nolo mortem peccatoris* – I do not wish the death of a sinner.

It is interesting to note that, although, through the 1580's, his principle employer was St Paul's Cathedral, Morley's main outputs were his popular song writing (madrigals & ballets) and for the theatre. 400 years later, when the St Paul's Choir Director led the choir to explore popular music and made a gold-selling recording of "My Way" and provided soloists for the original recordings of "Walking in the Air" from *The Snowman*, and the closing signature tune – Geoffrey Burgon's setting of the *Nunc Dimittis* – for the TV series *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, he ceased to hold his post. How times change!

**Richard Bennett**  
**Director of Music**

## Julia Samson



Even though we were prepared it was with great sadness that we learned of Julia's death on 6<sup>th</sup> April. Our love and sympathy are very much with Roger, Harri and Max as we all come to terms with this immense loss.

Julia had a very beautiful funeral service in St Andrew's, the church she loved, on 28<sup>th</sup> April. The colour purple dominated even to the plumes on the two beautiful black horses, Isaac and Daniel, who drew the hearse! Brightly coloured flowers were everywhere.

Numbers were of course restricted and so we are publishing an extract from Fr Darren's homily.

"Above all clothe yourselves with love" says the writer of this letter to the Colossians which we heard as our reading. Another translation of this passage tells us that regardless of what else we wear, we must put on love, for it is our basic all-purpose garment! I like that idea; it gives us a picture of an unfussy but durable and enduring garment that never goes out of fashion! Love is such a garment, for love out-lives fads and fashions.

Julia was certainly someone who loved fashion. Not in the sense that she wanted to keep up with the latest trends or that she was fussy about what she wore, or even about her appearance, but in the sense that she had her own style. And you don't need me to tell you that her choice of colours were not going to have her fading into the background, whether it was her hair, her shoes or her glasses.

Like the colours she loved Julia was bold.

And that boldness brought with it strength and resilience and a passion which influenced every part of her life. It led to an officer's commission to

run the RAF section of the CCF at Lord William's School when Julia would head off for arduous winter trainings and summer camps. It made her a dynamic and passionate educator who cared deeply for the young people she taught. She rejoiced in every success they achieved no matter how small it may have seemed to those in the mainstream. It made her a formidable fighter against the cancer which she fought time and time again.

If you couldn't see Julia, you could certainly hear her. She had a laugh which filled the church and our hearts with joy, because Julia was a lot of fun.

Retirement brought with it the ability to support Harri as she developed her career opportunities and the move to Bicester meant that Max was a whole lot closer for school runs and sleepovers.

And Julia also included people in her life who needed family in the widest sense, showing immense kindness, compassion and generosity to those who she could see were hurting.

And into all of this Julia brought her faith. Not in some pushy, in your face, and lots of talk approach but through her actions – she was someone who genuinely clothed herself with love, and who put on sufficient layers that she had lots of it to share. And there are many of us in this church today with whom Julia shared that love.

God's definition of what matters is pretty straightforward. He measures our lives by how we love. It is Julia's love that we come to remember and celebrate today – her love of us, her family, her friends and this Christian community. And also we remember and celebrate God's love for Julia and for each of us.

There is no doubt that we are all better people for having known Julia, for having spent time in her company, for having laughed with her, for having shared a glass or two of prosecco, or a G&T, for having shared her Christian journey. And so, in this service as we bid farewell to Julia as she embarks upon that next stage of her journey, her journey towards God, we surround her with our love and thanks and prayers.

God has welcomed Julia to his table in heaven to share eternal life with all the saints. It may be a noisier table as a result!

Well done, good and faithful servant.  
Enter into the joy of your Lord.  
Rest eternal grant unto Julia, O Lord.  
And may light perpetual shine upon her.  
May she rest in peace.  
And rise in glory. Amen.