

***August 2020,
A few notes from St Andrew's Church ...***

Face Masks

In line with the latest government guidance, face masks will be required by anyone attending church in the coming months. However, those speaking at the service, reading, preaching etc. will not be required to wear them. We will also continue to limit numbers attending by ensuring attendance is by invitation only and thereby maintain social distancing.

Compost

The PCC have agreed that it would be good to have a compost heap in the churchyard, but this needs a degree of management, ensuring the right ingredients are added at the right time. Would anyone like to take responsibility for this or do you know anyone who might like this job? Please let Greg or Paul Crowe know if you're interested.

A message from the City Council

Throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, the number one priority of Coventry City Council has always been the safety and wellbeing of Coventry people and all those people who work for us. Although positive cases in the city remain low overall, they have started to rise from a very low base over the last 10 days. After a run of a number of weeks of little or no new confirmed cases, they have started to rise, with around 6 or 7 confirmed cases now being reported daily. The cases are not showing any patterns in terms of areas affected or demographics leading to concerns that after living with the issue for almost four months and life starting to go back to some sort of normality, there is a real risk that complacency or fatigue could be setting in.

Remembrance Garden

A couple of years ago, a Remembrance Garden was established at St Andrew's School in memory of Brandon Gurney, a six year-old who died very suddenly in the parish. His mum, Louise, has been tending the garden in the years since, but is soon to begin a degree course in London. The school, therefore, is looking for a volunteer to look after the garden. This need not be an onerous task but might be one to cement links between church and school. Please speak to Greg or Paul Chylinski thechillos@gmail.com to find out more

From the Registers

Weddings

Peter Smith & Beth Lewis

Funerals

Kenneth Donald

Sylvia McCormick

Bette Thorpe

Eastern Green History Group

Memories from George Cooke

My wife Pauline and myself, newly married, moved to Sutton Avenue in 1955, having bought a new house for £1,195 on Broad Lane Park Estate.

Such was the demand, Daniels the builders brought in finishers so that the houses could be completed from both ends of the development. We benefited but felt we were living in the middle of a field.

Sutton Avenue in the wet was a sea of mud but Mr. Rice the milkman from Hockley Lane still ploughed through at 4 a.m. each morning. Because of the speed of development we couldn't get a telephone and when we did we had to share the line.

Many of the new householders were, like us, were inexperienced in house maintenance, but Bill Lee, the foreman (or clerk of works?) was fantastic – always there when needed. Thinking back to the new house, all we got inside was wallpaper up to an imaginary picture rail and outside a single row of slabs to the front door and a single row down part of the back garden. No laid out gardens, dig your own. That first year oats grew in our garden. Our next-door neighbours used to climb over his back fence, walk across the fields where Frederick Neal Avenue is now and shoot wood pigeons in the woods on the far side of Upper Eastern Green Lane.

Broad Lane was still something of a lane along which the No. 13 bus trundled. These were Guy-engined buses built during the war. The drivers needed to use both hands to change gear and we used to say we could hear the ‘flyer’ leaving Pool Meadow. Along Upper Eastern Green Lane the single decker No. 19 went out to Berkswell. The driver and conductor (one of them had an artificial hand) would pick up and even wait for regulars. We newcomers felt very out of it. Before there were any shops locally the lady from the Co-Op used to cycle to the new estate to collect grocery orders, which were delivered.

Eventually children arrived. Our first two went to Eastern Green Infants School, headmistress Mrs Thomas. Our eldest, Simon, was at one time in Mrs. Sugarman’s class, she was the wife of Mr. Sugarman the head of the new Junior School. She said she named one of her sons Simon because of our Simon. Other teachers I remember were Miss Roscoe and Miss McKie whose brother was a Bishop. Stephanie was very fond of Miss Franklin. The Junior School eventually had a swimming pool and we parents were much in demand as helpers. Jonathon, our third, went to Park Hill, headmaster, Mr Peach, because my wife, Pauline, was teaching there and in fact she remained there until her retirement.

I remember Woodlands being opened. Princess Margaret went to the dedication of St. Oswald’s Church. The vicar was a friend of hers. She then went on to Woodlands School. The road between the two venues was upgraded 100%!

Eventually Farcroft Avenue was joined to Broad Lane. A drain, already there was an inconvenience when turning into the new road. Amazingly, it is still there. The new road led, at last to shops. I remember Mr. Powell the butcher, Mr & Mrs Leah, the greengrocers, Mr. Porter, hardware – one only of everything! Mr. Icke, the newsagent and Mr. Billington, the chemist.

Time passes, shops, buses, amenities and of course residents change but Eastern Green is still a good place to live which is perhaps why so many of us are still here.

For more information regarding Eastern Green History Group please contact Jenny on 02476 403372