

November 2020

St Andrew's Church Bulletin

All change

The second lockdown means there will be no in person services until December at the earliest. We will continue to provide an online service in what is now the accustomed form. One thing that will be different this time round is that the church will be kept open for private prayer during daylight hours on Thursdays and Sundays. Do make use of this, remembering to sanitise on the way in and way out.

Toys

Despite Covid restrictions, it is still our intention to collect toys this year for Christmas. They will be distributed via the Family Centre in Tile Hill to children in the area who might otherwise go without (not least those whose families have lost jobs through lockdown). The centre currently has 100 children on their books that they are trying to support. As always, we will ask you to bring only new toys, unwrapped, and place them under the Christmas tree. Covid rules mean that we will have only limited windows to do this and that the deadline is set for 5 pm on Sunday 6th December. We know some of you have started Xmas shopping already and might appreciate this early warning.

Foodbank Donations

To donate to Central foodbank, Sue Barnes is coordinating this so please contact her to drop off food at her house. Contact Sue at susanbarnes1960@outlook.com. If you are unable to give food you can also donate online here: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/rddonate-checkout/>

Fundraising for Church

As those of you who know me, I enjoy crafting. I continued throughout the year hoping that we may be at some normal come the end of the year and that St Andrew's Autumn/Christmas fayre would go ahead. Unfortunately, this is not the case. I have therefore put together an online stall which can be found by using the link: <https://youtu.be/fmsKDEBrV90>

If you wish to purchase anything please contact me either by Telephone: 024 7646 1508 or email beccamartin@talktalk.net to arrange purchase and I can make delivery to the local area.

Many thanks for looking, *Rebecca Martin*

From the Parish Registers

Funerals

Alan Titman

James Verdon

John Kibble

The Daylight Raid on Coventry Extract from Eastern Green Past & Present Colin Bullas 2007

This is my memories of that day.

I myself was at home in Eastern Green Road and went up to the top of the road by the side of the God Cake which was there, then standing outside Pear Tree Cottage. The upper window of the Cottage opened and Mrs Dubock called to me and said "the sirens have gone off you should be in the shelter". At that point we heard the sound of an aeroplane, looking up quite high in the sky was this plane, we could tell it was German as we knew the different types by the noise they made. I ran as fast as my little legs would go for home and down into the Anderson Shelter. (I had seen that bomber).

My father Albert Owen Bullas worked at Coventry Radiator and Presswork, Canley. There was a system of lights set up because production of vital radiators for war time vehicles was a top priority, green for alert, amber to imminent, red for every one out down the shelter and they went on working even after the siren had gone and raids were in progress 'til red. The red light was up and father was in charge of the press shop, he had approximately 200 girls working under him. His responsibility was to see everyone was out to the shelters and he was the last man out.

The shelters were situated across the main access road on land next to the railway line that ran between Coventry Radiator and the Standard Car Factory. As he emerged from the main building and was about to cross the road he heard the approaching plane and to his horror saw the first bomb leaving the plane as this was heading in front of him towards where the shelter was. He dived under a parked lorry badly knocking and grazing his knee. This was the bomb that landed in the Standard paint shop. Had it landed just a matter of a few hundred yards on the shelter area the casualties could have been disastrous. As it was, the paint shop went up with spectacular results. My dad saw that plane!

The second bomb landed at the side of the first house in Broad Lane corner of Hearsall Common opposite Guphill. It blew the gable end out of this house. As they usually dropped a string of three, if there were any more bombs they would have landed in Whoberley and district. It was a built up area at this time.

My mother Edith Caroline Bullas and my cousin Hazel had been to visit my aunty in Moseley Avenue Radford and were on their way home. This meant getting on the bus at 'The Holyhead' pub and getting off at the terminus at Allesley, this was at the end of Park Hill Lane. They then walked up Park Hill Lane. Just before they got to the right hand bend in the lane, 300 yards short on the left was a 5 bar field gate. As they passed this they heard a plane approaching at zero feet high, it must have passed within a couple of hundred yards of the ack-ack emplacement situated there.

But, it was going too low and too fast for them possibly to get a bead on him. They dived into the ditch as the plane crossed the lane. It was so low they actually saw the pilot in it. It then proceeded to fly out over Meriden and head up north. I believe it got back to Germany safely. They saw that plane.

That evening as you can imagine the talk was very much about the day's events and this remains today 60 years on, quite an impression on my memory. We all saw that plane.

PS, My brother Derek was evacuated still at Hereford at this time so he missed all this. That plane passed over what we now know as Allesley Green; at about one hundred feet up, hedgehopping we called it. As there are accounts machine-gunning Beech Tree and Fir Tree crossroads he must have made more than one pass over the site. I only saw with my little eye this plane when he was several thousand feet up getting his bearings before diving down to bomb.