

All Saints' photo highlights of 2011

Photos of All Saints' and Gornal and
Sedgley parish events
by Martin Jones



Christmas Tree Festival

December...the Christmas Tree Festival is definitely one of All Saints' annual highlights. It is free to come in, but most people make a donation to 'Biblelands' which carries out vital projects to assist people in the lands of the Bible. Organised by Jonathan Williams, and assisted by Liz and Chris Williams it features trees decorated by many local community organisations and All Saints' church groups. In so doing it places All Saints' firmly at the heart of the local Sedgley community and encourages many visitors to come in who might not otherwise set foot in church.



Father Rob Parker-McGee's ordination at Worcester Cathedral

July..the whole parish celebrated Father Rob Parker-McGee's ordination at Worcester Cathedral, attended by a coach party of over 50 people from Gornal and Sedgley and a congregation of 2000 people from across the diocese supporting all the ordinands. It was a beautiful sunny day and we all explored the beautiful city of Worcester in the morning before the service in the afternoon. The coach trip gave us a feeling of unity and togetherness as a parish and it was great to assemble with fellow Christians from all over the diocese.



Remembrance Sunday

November...The Royal British Legion and Sedgley's uniformed organisations marched from the Crown to All Saints' filling the length of Dudley Street, before turning into Vicar Street for the Remembrance Sunday service at the church. Over 300 people were present - Remembrance Sunday is one of those special village occasions that unite us as a village community.



Good Friday - Sedgley's churches united in a joint service in the Bull Ring

Good Friday...Sedgley's churches united in a joint service in the Bull Ring, involving the Salvation Army, Sedgley Community Church, St Andrew's URC and the Anglican Gornal and Sedgley Team. This was another village event that meant a lot because it brought together people from all denominations as a community of Christians.



Sunday School Play

July...Thomas and Jasmine took part in a play at the Sunday School Service. As usual, the props were beautifully hand-made by Harry Shaw. We should also thank Barbara Price and helpers for all the excellent work they do with the Sunday School.



Morning Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday

March...Father Stephen, Len Millard and Father Rob at Morning Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. A service full of meaning and symbolism. I was glad to have captured a picture of our clergy in their colourful Lenten vestments.



Jonathan and Jennifer Dudley marry at All Saints'

August...Jonathan and Jennifer Dudley marry at All Saints'. This was a 'textbook' wedding day at All Saints', showing off the beauty of our church to best advantage on a beautiful summer's day. I hope the pictures elsewhere on the site inspire many others to choose All Saints' for their wedding.



All Saints' on Holy Saturday

April...Father Stephen lights the Paschal Candle in the Narthex at All Saints' on Holy Saturday. If you haven't experienced this wonderful service on the eve of Easter Day, do come in 2012 and feel the wonder and mystery of Christ's light entering the darkened church, symbolising His light coming into the world.



Jan Humphries at St Andrew's Spring Fayre

May...Jan Humphries at St Andrew's Spring Fayre. The Fayres in the parish do not just raise valuable funds for the church, they help to reach out and establish our presence within our local communities.



PCC meets at St Andrew's

April..the full PCC meets at St Andrew's after a Team Service. Another occasion that brings the parish together and helps everyone stay in touch. We can tend to operate in islands within the parish and these occasions remind us that we are part of a greater community.



St Peter's Spring Fayre

May...St Peter's Spring Fayre, on a British patriotic theme. I loved all the red, white and blue of the decorations and the trouble to which St Peter's stallholders went to dress up, be a part of the occasion and celebrate the theme.



The Venerable Roger Morris, Archdeacon of Worcester

April...The Venerable Roger Morris, Archdeacon of Worcester, preached at St Andrew's. It's great when we are visited by clergy from beyond the parish. It reminds us we belong to a greater community of Christians in the diocese.



Kindle Youth Service

May... the first ever Kindle Youth Service is launched at All Saints', led by Father Rob and Laura Price. This was a highly significant event. The service was planned and delivered by All Saints' Youth Group and aimed at young people in the area. Its content was very original and pointed the way ahead - it introduced new ideas on how we can approach our worship and challenged the preconception that the church is immutable and stuck in the liturgy of past generations. The more support we can give this group in 2012, the better.



Palm Sunday service

April...All Saints' parishioners walk over from the church hall for the Palm Sunday service. A lovely All Saints' tradition - we each had our palm crosses blessed in the church hall and then we walked over to All Saints' for the service. It gave us a great feeling of togetherness in Christ.



Bishop's Certificate

November...The Bishop of Dudley presents the Bishop's Certificate at the Chapter House, Worcester Cathedral, including students from St Peter's, All Saints' and St Mary's. The certificate is a year long course in bible study and theology, looking at and discussing bible passages and Christian doctrine in great detail.



All Saints Summer Fayre.

July... Worth Sides meets the Mayor of Dudley and his Consort at All Saints Summer Fayre. A charming and time-honoured way of raising money for the church. Everyone has a part to play on such occasions, from putting together and serving on a stall, to coming along and buying a used book or a cake or two!



Maisie the vicarage dog

**February..The Gornal and Sedgley Team meet Maisie the vicarage dog.
The Gornal and Sedgley Team met up for a photo for the website and
Maisie made sure she wasn't left out of the fun.**



A summer wedding at All Saints'.

August...Father Rob conducts a summer wedding at All Saints'. In fact, this is Jonathan and Jenny Dudley's wedding again. Worth featuring another shot, because this is how many imagine a church wedding to look like - and our church has the age and character to deliver just such a dream wedding for couples!



Brother Philip Nichols from Mirfield Monastery - day of quiet reflection at St Andrew's

November... Brother Philip Nichols from Mirfield Monastery led a day of quiet reflection at St Andrew's. This was a wonderful experience for everyone who partook. It was great to approach worship, and our relationship with God, in a different way from usual.



42 years of arranging the wedding flowers at All Saints

November...Mary Wright received a bouquet and other gifts from Father Stephen to mark 42 years of arranging the wedding flowers at All Saints'. I'm working with Mary on an article featuring Mary and her husband Ron's memories of All Saints' as well as her recollections of living at Spout House farm in Cotwall End.



Les Box – Bomb disposal man

October...Sadly, one of Sedgley's last remaining World War II veterans, former Royal Engineers bomb disposal man Les Box, died. He was remembered in a special display about his wartime experiences at the annual Royal British Legion Remembrance Service at All Saints'.



Father Rob's ordination party

July... time to relax in the garden at St Andrew's Vicarage after Father Rob's ordination at Worcester Cathedral, which was attended by around 50 parishioners. I love this 'off-duty' moment after a very long day at Worcester. The vicarage garden was utilised to full effect to hold a party for the parishioners who attended the ordination.



Christmas Fayre

December...Christmas Fayre: "Double, double, toil and trouble, Fire burn and cauldron bubble"- Father Rob attempts a 'spiritual' conversion of the parish.



St Peter's Christmas Fayre.

Late November...David Moss and Suzanne Bradley at St Peter's Christmas Fayre. Again St Peter's parishioners put heart and soul into making the Fayre a really enjoyable and successful event, and again dressed up to mark the occasion. David wins my prize for the most imaginative improvised headgear ever seen in the parish!



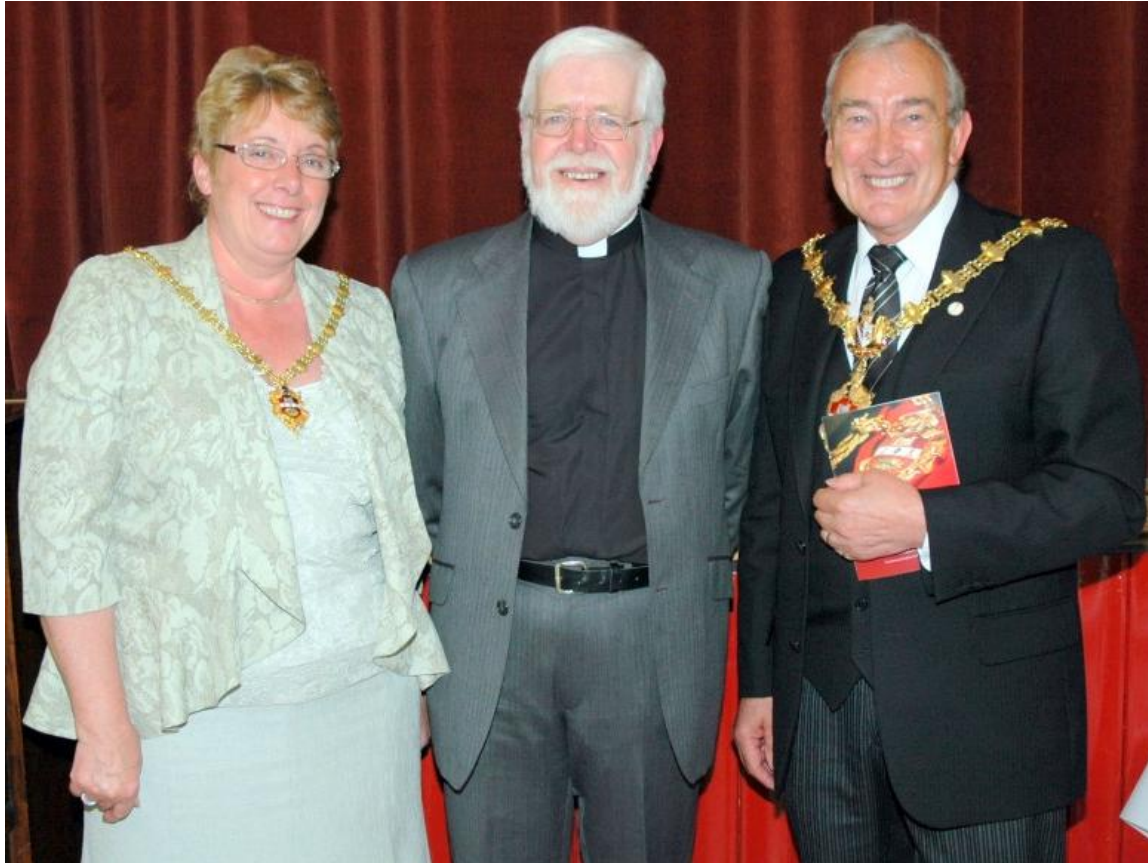
Palm Sunday procession

April... The Palm Sunday procession crosses Vicar Street from the church hall. I like this shot which shows Stephen in his Easter finery and the wardens carrying their traditional Vicar's Warden and People's Warden staves, an old tradition within Anglican churches.



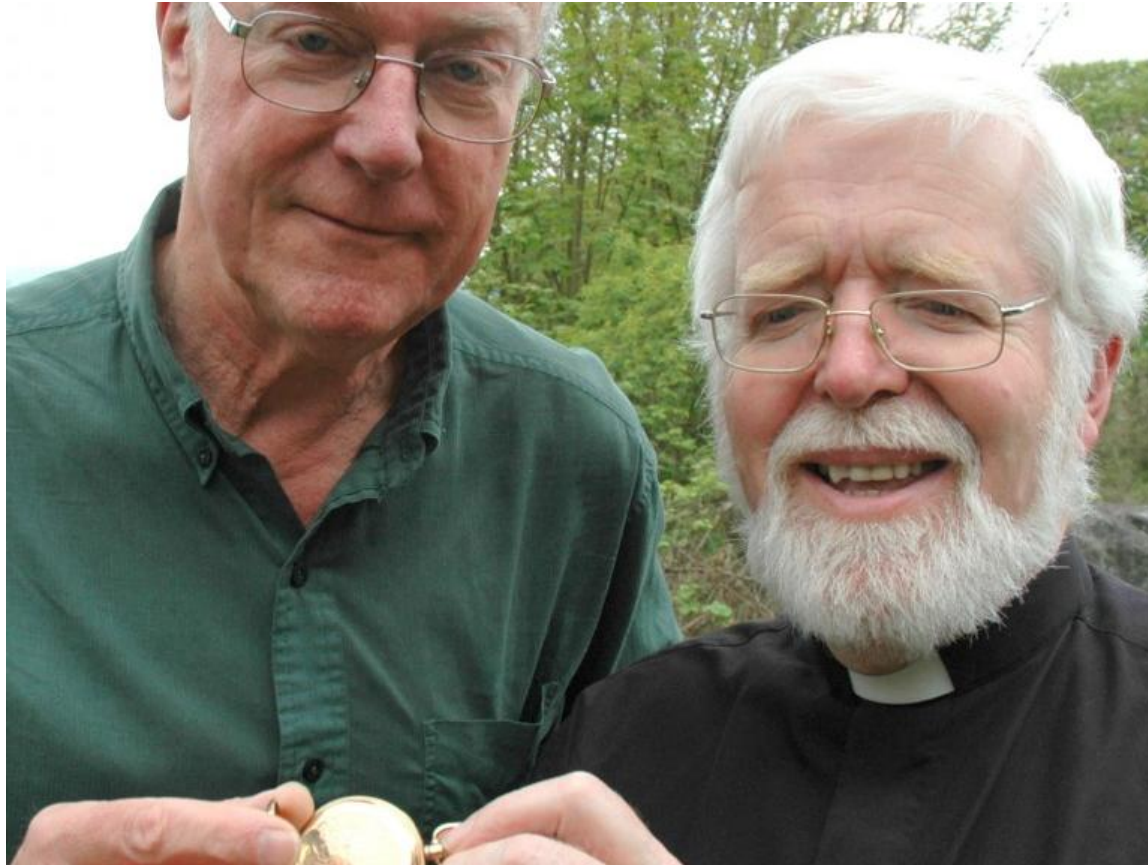
Children's Society Fayre

October..The Children's Society Fayre. This was a very successful event, bringing together fund raisers from all parts of Sedgley.



Civic Service inaugurating the new mayor

June...The Borough of Dudley's Civic Service inaugurating the new mayor is held at All Saints' following Father Stephen's appointment as Mayor's Chaplain. There can't be many churches in Dudley that could have done justice to a Mayor's inauguration with such aplomb. All Saints' has the size, the gravitas, the location and the setting in which such civic occasions may be successfully celebrated.



Revd Thomas Swindell's pocket watch

April...The Revd Thomas Swindell's pocket watch is returned to All Saints' from Canada, 100 years after it was first presented to him. Revd Swindell was vicar in the late Victorian/Edwardian era, dying in 1929. The medal turned out to be quite a collectors' piece and we discovered the intriguing history of its manufacturers in Birmingham.



Bingo at St Andrew's Silver Threads Club

March...Bingo at St Andrew's Silver Threads Club. The club, held in St Andrew's Church Hall, is a thriving concern and is always packed.



Fair Trade Coffee Morning

March...Fair Trade Coffee Morning. Another successful concern under the umbrella of All Saints', which serves to highlight our connections with and concern for the Third World.



Royal British Legion Remembrance Day

November...Bob and Connie Webb at the Royal British Legion Remembrance Day Parade and Service. Bob and Connie are stalwarts of the Friday Coffee Club and Bob was in Bomber Command at the end of World War II. I love this shot as they both look so proud on this very special day in the church's, and the Legion's calendar.



The Kindle Youth Service by the All Saints' Youth Group

November...The Kindle Youth Service by the All Saints' Youth Group. Expressive dance in the Chancel. Another shot of this highly innovative youth service. Let us hope the project and the Kindle services grow and expand - infusing the church with new ideas and bringing Christianity to new audiences.