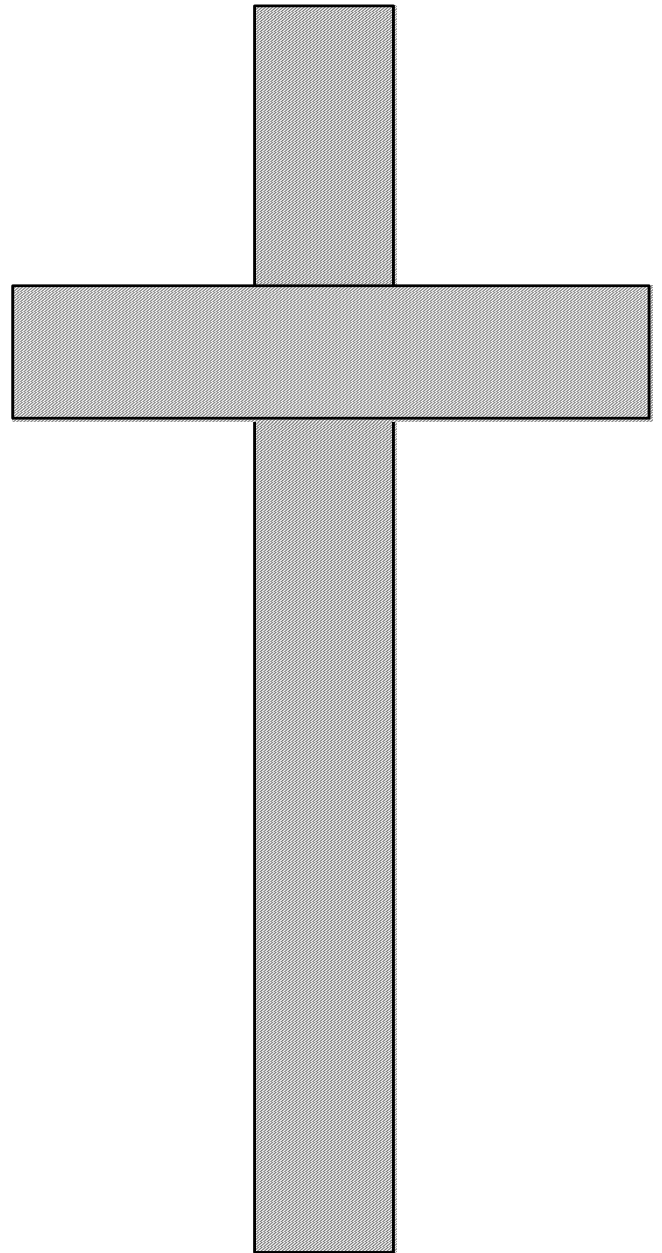
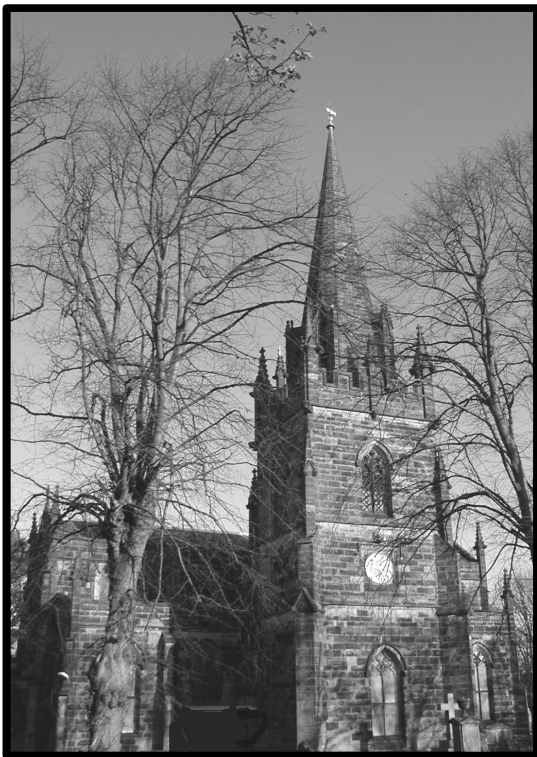


# ***THE BEACON***



**50p**



**July - August  
2012**

**The Parish Magazine of  
All Saints' Sedgley & St Andrew's The Straits**

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live for today,  
hope for tomorrow”**

**Albert Einstein**

**For over 100 years you have been helping  
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This year you helped Anne-Marie to ride a bike on her own for the first time, you helped Frank leave his house each week to meet his friends for a cup of tea and a chat and you helped William receive the care and support he needs every day.

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## **ALL SAINTS', SEDGLEY**

### **Sunday Services**

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
10.30 a.m. Parish Communion  
(First Sunday: All-Age Worship)  
6.30 p.m. Evensong (BCP)

### **Weekday Services**

- Monday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
Wednesday 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion  
(1st Wednesday: Healing Service)

## **ST ANDREW'S, THE STRAITS**

### **Sunday Service**

- 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
(1st Sunday: Morning Prayer)

### **Weekday Service**

- Wednesday 7.00 p.m. Holy Communion

## **THE STRAITS CHURCH**

### **Sunday Services**

- 9.30 a.m. Prayer & Communion  
11.00 a.m. Family Service  
6.00 p.m. Evening Prayer

(When there is a fifth Sunday in the month the three churches in the Team Ministry meet for a united service at either 9.30 a.m. or 10.30 a.m. depending on the venue.)

### **Baptisms & Weddings**

Arrangements for baptisms and weddings at All Saints' and St Andrew's can be made at the Vestry Hour at All Saints', which is held on Wednesdays at 8.00 p.m. in All Saints'.

Baptisms are generally held on the fourth Sunday of the month at 4.00 p.m. at All Saints', and on the second Sunday of the month at 3.00 p.m. at St Andrew's. Baptisms can also take place during the Sunday morning service at All Saints' or St Andrew's by arrangement.

## WHO'S WHO AT ALL SAINTS' & ST ANDREW'S

### GORNAL & SEDGLEY TEAM MINISTRY

Team Rector (Day off Friday)	The Revd Stephen Buckley	01902 883255
Team Vicar (Day off Monday)	The Revd Andy Stand	883467
Asst Curate (Day off Friday)	The Revd Rob Parker-McGee	01384 860525
Reader	Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Authorised Lay Minister	Suzanne Bradley	880055
PCC Secretary	Suzanne Bradley	" "

### ALL SAINTS'

Parish Wardens	Rob Lavender	01902 661325
	Derrick Turner	895066
DCC Secretary	Pam Hunt	670787
Treasurer	Derrick Turner	895066
Electoral Roll	Liz Williams	672880
Organist	Mel Jones	0121 550 1604
Bell Ringers	Keith Williams	01902 672585
Servers	Len Millard	676339
Junior Church	Barbara Price	676591
Youth Group	Laura Price	" "
Noah's Ark Parent & Toddler Group	Linda Edwards	672556
Hall Bookings	The Vicarage	883255
Hall Caretaker	Joan Moon	682902
Social Club	John Dillworth	670156
Magazine Editor	Christine Buckley	883255
Distribution	Rob Lavender	661325
Advertising	" "	" "

**All Saints' cont.**

Mothers' Union	Liz Williams	672880
Ladies' Society	Geraldine Baker	674608
Men's Society	Roger Berry	881374

**Uniformed Organisations**

Rainbows	Liz Naylor	01902 885517
Brownies	Heather Churm	07530 977090

**ST ANDREW'S**

Church Warden	Margaret Probin	01902 883163
DCC Secretary	Rosemary Reed	
Treasurer	Gordon Betteley	882777
Sacristan	May Smith	

**Little Angels**

Mums & Toddlers	Sarah Parker-McGee	01384 860525
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**THE STRAITS COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Pastor	Maurice Powell	01902 885402
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**PARISH WEBSITE: [www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk](http://www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk)**

**CHURCH REGISTERS****BAPTISMS****All Saints'**

10 June	Matilda Louise Hanney
24 June	Madison Marie Hall
"	Jenson Walter Marlow
"	Thomas Harry Fereday

**St Andrew's**

10 June	Jack Taylor Billingham
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**WEDDINGS****All Saints'**

9 June	Lee Griffiths & Laura Hartill
16 June	Christopher Bishop & Lauren Prosser

*Cont. over page*

### ***Parish registers cont.***

23 June James Price & Hayley Marsh

30 June Mark Buttery & Amy Smith

### **PARISH FUNERALS**

19 June Freda Tolley, aged 85

27 June Joan Bennett, aged 71

### **MAGAZINE MATERIAL**

Articles for the July magazine should be sent to the Vicarage by Sunday 19th August. They may be sent by e-mail to [srb55@talktalk.net](mailto:srb55@talktalk.net).

### **THE BEACON**

If you are interested in having the magazine delivered to your home on a regular basis, please contact Rob Lavender: tel. 01902 661325. *The Beacon* is published ten times a year and the cost for the year is £5.

### **JULY/AUGUST FLOWER ROTA**

July 1	Val Round
July 8	Bill & Barbara Baker
July 15	Kathleen Cop & in memory of Lil Parton
July 22	In memory of Floss & George Edwards
July 29	Mrs Holden
Aug 5	Mr & Mrs M Cox
Aug 12	Noah's Ark (Jenny Lavender)
Aug 19	John & Cicely Thomas
Aug 26	Rosemary Moss

## THE WASHING OF REGENERATION AND RENEWAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Dear Friends,

Over the last few months we have had the pleasure of welcoming a number of new families, as we conducted baptisms and weddings for new arrivals and old acquaintances. On at least two occasions we have seen Sunday morning services full to bursting, and although some of the lack of church etiquette may have proved a distraction, seeing our Holy site used precisely for the purpose it was built – to be full- was very welcome indeed. We encounter endless youngsters and families through various avenues of children's, youth and family work...and yet we see very few young people and families in our church on a Sunday morning.

Recently the PCC commissioned a Young People's and Families Work Committee to look into this area of our mission. The discussions have been very fruitful. The committee has looked at the vast amount of work already undertaken on behalf of the parish by volunteers and willing helpers as well as identifying gaps in our current provision. Since meetings began, the group has decided to pilot two new initiatives and identified that one of its main focuses has to be to help people to cross the threshold of our Church more regularly.

Another outcome of these discussions, and answering an earlier request of the PCC, has been to begin putting together a clear initiation policy for the parish which looks to place into procedure the way we welcome new-comers to faith and account for their lifelong spiritual growth and nurture within our church. Scripture is quite clear that it is OUR responsibility as the Church in this place to reach out to these newcomers in a way that makes them want more: *more of us and more of Christ!* In Matthew 28, Christ tells us to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”. Before we jump on our boats and evangelise foreign shores however, I think we need to make sure that we have done it here. Christ does not differentiate between who we should evangelise, and so neither should we.

Mark 10 gives us a story of children being brought to Jesus. Through all good intentions, the Disciples want to keep them out of the way because they think they would affect the adults, and especially Jesus' work and prayer. Mark says: ‘and they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.’ (*Mark 10: 13-16: see also Matthew 18:3; 6: 19:14; 21:16; Luke 18:17; Mark 16:16*).

We are not short of passages giving us this or a similar message, as the list here bears testimony. Yet it is difficult not to get irritated if people, especially children, don't act according to our high standards when they feel out of place or find church strange. But scripture calls us to step outside of our comfort zones and embrace the stranger in our midst. If necessary we are called to change everything we are, *even die upon a cross*, in order to welcome others to the new and miraculous life we find in Christ.

This may be unsettling and difficult, but we must have faith! Let us show love, acceptance, tolerance and patience, the kind of Christian traits that are attractive to others and will draw them in. William Temple said, "The church is the only cooperative society in the world that exists for the benefit of its non-members." As the local body of Christ (the Church), one of our highest callings is to exist for the benefit of our non-members. We must communicate the message of salvation and be witnesses among them - salt and light ([Matt 5:13-15](#)) in a dark and decaying world - so that people will populate the Kingdom of Heaven ultimately, and will populate the body of Christ today!

A wise priest once said to me, "never grumble in church for the angels will be listening". Maybe that strange family who came to support their friend's baptism were those angels?

Christ 'saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of **regeneration** and **renewal** of the Holy Spirit.' (*Titus 3:5*) So 'do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.' (*2 Timothy 2:15*).

We face a very special challenge, one our church has not encountered in this country since Christianity first spread around these shores. In this we are honoured, but everything hinges on our response. May the life giving Christ nurture you all in the faith and may the blessings of Christ remain with you always.

**Fr Rob**

## **CHURCH OPENING**



**Friday mornings from  
10.30am to 12.30pm**

**The church is open for quiet prayer  
& coffee and a chat.**



## MOTHERS' UNION

Thank you to all members who donated towards the cost of the Mothers' Union flowers at the Flower Festival, we had many favourable comments about the arrangements.

The Deanery Festival held at St Mark's, Pensnett took as its theme: "Thankfulness for our Gifts". It was lovely to join with members from around the Deanery in worship and fellowship. The Revd Sue Oliver gave the address and I was privileged to present a Long Service Award to Mary Beard for 50 years membership of the Mothers' Union.

There is a Mary Sumner Day service, commemorating the founder of the Mothers' Union, at Holy Trinity, Amblecote on Thursday 9th August, at 7.30pm. Anyone wanting a lift please let me know.

### Dates

3 <sup>rd</sup> July	2.30pm	The Driving Test, Gwen Hadley
16 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00am	Corporate Communion
17 <sup>th</sup> July	7.30pm	In the Steps of St Paul, Mary Wear
9 <sup>th</sup> Aug	7.30pm	Mary Sumner Day Service at Holy Trinity, Amblecote
23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	10.00am	Deanery Quiet Day, in church, led by Revd Alma Organ
4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	2.30pm	Wave of Prayer
8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	2.30pm	Diocesan Festival, All Saints', Bromsgrove

**Liz Williams**

## LADIES SOCIETY

### Summer Meal – The Bell Inn, Trysull

There were approximately 30 of our members who gathered for this popular evening out. The weather was not exactly "Flaming June"! but it didn't really matter. When we had all arrived, we were shown into a large pleasantly furnished dining room. There was a varied menu for us to choose from and it was served by very friendly waitresses.

As we enjoyed the good food, we were able to sit and catch up with all the local news as it affected us and our own lives. There is not much that one can say about a meal out – except that it was enjoyed by us all – and a big "Thank you" to the committee for organising it.

Well Ladies, that's it! Just one more meeting before we have our summer break. This will be on July 2nd when Kenneth Hughes is coming to talk to us about, "Cadbury's and Bourneville". I wonder if there will be any free samples? See you there.

**Molly Taft**

## WHAT DO WE KNOW AND WHAT DON'T WE KNOW?

In his interesting article on the post-Resurrection appearance of Jesus, Tony Hart suggested that I might like to comment. I don't think I can really add anything to that covered in the article, but it does point me in a direction which I would like to write about.

It must have come as a great surprise to scientists when they discovered that objects they thought were solid turned out to exist almost entirely of space. Consider too, the subject of time. Tony also covered this in a talk to the Mothers' Union. The idea that the speed of passage of time is influenced by gravity and that the faster one travels, the more time slows down if measured by a stationary observer (in theory at the speed of light time stands still) would have seemed a crazy idea, even if it occurred to scientists. But then Einstein came along.

As a teenager, I went to university to study for a degree in Mathematics. I wondered how much more Maths there was to learn. Hadn't we covered most of it at A-Level. What a shock! Not only did I realise that our teachers had barely touched the subject but by the time I got my degree, I was in full agreement with those experts who say 'the more you learn about a subject the more you realise you don't know.' Sometimes we are given the impression that science is close to finding the answers to almost every thing. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Consider, for example, the study of animals. Anyone who watched the first episode of the BBC's series 'Super Smart Animals' would probably be as amazed as I was at the memory feats of a chimp. The numbers 1 to 9 (I think it was) were shown on a television screen in random positions on the screen. Having been there for a few seconds, the numbers were replaced by blank cards, and the task was to point to the cards one at a time in the correct order, 1 to 9.

Humans found this quite difficult but it was no problem for the chimp. Then new numbers were shown for a time which was much less than half a second. In fact all we saw was a flash of light. Humans had no chance of seeing any number, let alone all 9, but the chimp pointed them out without hesitation. How did it do that?

In another study, in Africa it was revealed that herds of elephants will trek over 100 miles in the desert to go from one waterhole to another. But the desert landscape is continuously changing. How do they do that?

You won't find more down to earth people than veterinary surgeons. Their job depends upon it. But some groups of vets are now beginning to work with psychic healers to help them deal with animals. In fact there is some evidence to suggest that psychic healing (they call it spiritual healing) is more successful with horses than it is with humans. How come?

Clearly there is still a lot to learn. The quote from Hamlet, 'There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy,' seems more appropriate now than it ever did. I believe too, that the statement, 'the more you learn ..' applies to religion as much as to any other subject. We only have to look at different sects, say, whose members claim that they believe that every word in the Bible is true; in other words, that it was effectively dictated by God, rather than inspired by God. So why do they come up with so many differences in what they believe?

I do appreciate the fact that in the Church of England, we are not told that we must believe certain facts, and we accept differences of belief. Some feel that this is a disadvantage, and it may sometimes appear to be so, but it is also an advantage in that we can differ in our beliefs while agreeing (hopefully) on the important points.

I tend to agree with the author of a book I read some time ago, who suggested that it would be a good idea if every church put up a notice pointing out that members should respect the views of other faiths, other sects and other beliefs. I rather suspect that when we move on from this world a lot of people, maybe all of us, will be surprised by some of the truths we find. Of course, it is often the ones who know the least who claim to know the most. Take Dawkins and company for example - but let's leave that for another article.

**Gordon Betteley**

## **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

As I write this I know that we are only about half way through June so that mentioning the Christmas Bazaar seems highly premature. However, as the Flower Festival showed, forward planning is the key to success. For many, many years Alan Thompson was the stalwart of the Preserves Stall. He worked throughout the year making and selling his excellent marmalade and other preserves and always provided a large stock of goodies for sale on the stall at the Bazaar. Alan is now no longer able to do this and so the stall could well end up short of produce.

Bob Hill and I are happy to look after the stall on the day but are not able to make all of the necessary preserves, in addition to the pickles, chutney and mincemeat that we normally provide. If someone were to take over Alan's production line it would be excellent, but it's a lot of hard work for just one person. However, if a significant number of people were each to make just 4 to 6 jars of jam or marmalade, and provide them for the stall then the problem would be solved.

So, we need willing volunteers to make just a few items each. Obviously, if we don't get the goods then we can't sell them on Bazaar day and the income from the Preserves stall - one of the larger contributors to the event total - will inevitably decline. We need help to prevent this from happening - will you be one of the people to provide it - please ?

**Anne Hart**

## **'GOD SAVE THE QUEEN' FLOWER FESTIVAL**

Thank you to all who produced flower arrangements and contributed to the '60 Diamond Years' Exhibition run by Martin; to Harry for his artefacts; to those who baked cakes, helped with refreshments, manned the door and the stalls in the churchyard. Thanks to the school choirs who entertained us so wonderfully and to the children who painted those marvellous pictures of the Queen. Those of us there on the Friday of the Festival will have a lasting memory of the joy and enthusiasm of our local school children as they sang their hearts out. Thanks to the Mothers' Union Choir, Hilary and Stephen for an entertaining concert; the Bell Ringers for their celebratory peal of bells and to David Gerlane who played the organ during the Festival.

It was fitting to celebrate the Queen's reign with a Service of Thanksgiving on the Sunday morning, to mark her unstinting service to our country and its peoples, and to have a Songs of Praise in the evening.

We had over 600 visitors to the Festival, and raised £3500 for the Church Ministry, and £1000 for 'Help for Heroes'. We have received a thank you from 'Help for Heroes' which is on the notice board at the back of church.

Congratulations to the winners of the Raffle:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - £100 Theatre Voucher - Val King
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - Garden Seat - Laura Price
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - Cream Tea for 2 at Halfpenny Green Vineyard – Mrs Taylor
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize - £30 Garden Voucher – Elaine Melhuish
- 5<sup>th</sup> Prize - £20 Voucher for Saffron Pinks - Pamela Hazelhurst
- 6<sup>th</sup> Prize - Bottle of Champagne – Jonathan Inett

The Festival and Exhibition will be a lasting memory of how All Saints' marked this momentous event.

**Liz and Pauline**

## **THANKS**

I would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards, and kind gifts I received for my 90th birthday. They were greatly appreciated.

**Len Millard**

## INTERCESSIONS FOR JULY

- 1st Archbishop Rowan
- 2nd The success of the Life Exhibition
- 3rd Thomas the Apostle
- 4th Junior Church
- 5th The troubled Continent of Africa
- 6th Thomas More, Scholar
- 7th The Homeless
- 8th Archbishop John
- 9th Those engaged in agriculture
- 10th All Saints' DCC
- 11th Benedict, Abbot
- 12th Fair Trade
- 13th The Housebound
- 14th John Keeble, Priest & Poet
- 15th Bishops John & David
- 16th Noah's Ark
- 17th Little Angels
- 18th Schools as they break up for summer holidays
- 19th Gregory, Bishop
- 20th Margaret of Antioch
- 21st Relate
- 22nd Mary Magdalene
- 23rd Bridget Abbess
- 24th World Peace
- 25th James the Apostle
- 26th Anne & Joachim parents of the BVM
- 27th Prisoner visitors.
- 28th Those who live in poverty
- 29th Gornal & Sedgley Team.
- 30th William Wilberforce Social Reformer
- 31st Ignatius of Loyola

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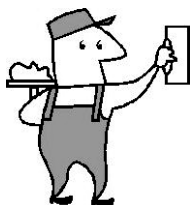
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<b>WEDNESFIELD</b> 11 High Street, Wednesfield, WV11 1SU Tel: 01902 723237	<b>WILLENHALL</b> 12 The Woodlands Centre, Willenhall WV12 5ND Tel: 01922 712153	<b>PENN</b> 276-278 Penn Road, Wolverhampton, WV4 4AD Tel: 01902 330357	<b>WOMBOURNE</b> Church Road, Wombourne, Wolverhampton, WV5 9EZ Tel: 01902 898103

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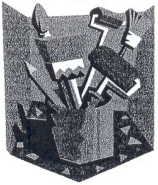
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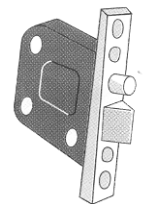
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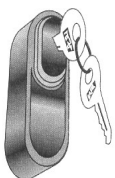


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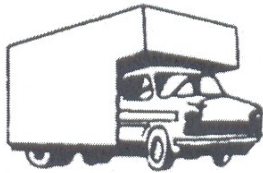
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## INTERCESSIONS FOR AUGUST

- 1st Retired Clergy
- 2nd Israel & Palestine
- 3rd The Economy
- 4th Persecuted Christians in China
- 5th Fred our Archdeacon
- 6th Transfiguration of Our Lord
- 7th John Mason Neale, Priest & Hymn Writer
- 8th Diocese of Morogoro
- 9th Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union
- 10th John Henry Newman
- 11th Claire of Assisi
- 12th Colin our Area Dean
- 13th Jeremy Taylor, teacher of the faith
- 14th Florence Nightingale
- 15th The Blessed Virgin Mary
- 16th World Debt
- 17th St Mary's, Hurst Hill
- 18th Those who live on the margins of life
- 19th Gornal & Sedgley Team
- 20th William & Catherine Booth founders of the Salvation Army
- 21st Black Country Urban Industrial Mission
- 22nd Translators of Gods Word
- 23rd Churches in Interregnum
- 24th Bartholomew the Apostle
- 25th Royal National Lifeboat Institution
- 26th Our Faith
- 27th Mission to Seamen
- 28th Augustine, Bishop & Teacher of the faith
- 29th Beheading of John the Baptist
- 30th John Bunyan, Spiritual Writer
- 31st Aidan, Bishop & Missionary

## JUST THOUGHTS

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.

Just remember, these are the good old days we shall be longing for in a few years time.

Ten good words are worth a hundred bad ones.

It is easier to offer objections than it is to get busy.

They who tend to get the most of it, don't necessarily get the best of it.

Charity may cover a multitude of sins, but curiosity could soon uncover them.

By the faults of others the wise should correct their own.

Everyone must become wise at their own expense.

The best way to wipe out a friendship is to sponge on it.

Responsibility walks hand in hand with power and capacity.

Mirth may not necessarily move a soul in agony, but sympathy may.

Work is the best thing ever invented for killing time.

Say not always what you know, but always know what you say.

Be yourself and you'll feel at home anywhere.

The road to failure is greased with indifference.

Good judgment comes from experience, experience comes from bad judgment.

Nothing depreciates a car faster than a neighbour buying a new one.

It is said that courtesy is contagious, so why not start an epidemic?

A divorce is often what a couple agree upon when they can't agree on anything else.

For some, fun is like insurance -- the older they get the more it costs.

If life gets to hard to stand ..... kneel.

The more anger towards the past you carry in your heart, the less capable you are of loving in the present.

Some people are funny. They spend money they haven't got, to buy things they don't need, to impress people they don't like.

The road to independence is paved with what you have saved

If tears of love, joy and bliss have not washed your cheeks, you are yet to taste life.

A friend is one who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words.

Know yourself, be yourself, trust yourself, love yourself.

Yes officer, I saw the speed limit sign, I just didn't see you !!!!!

**Compiled by David Melhuish**

## **DOUGLAS GEORGE SMITH 1928 - 2012**

Doug was many things - for 59 and a half years a loving, devoted and committed husband to Joan, dedicated father to Susan and David, a proud grandfather, a magistrate, a traveller, gardener, a walker, a born organizer.

Doug was a bell ringer for over 66 years, and Tower Captain at All Saints' for 37 years and his encouragement and strictures are sadly missed. He was part of a team that supervised the removal of the old bells in 1975, and the installation of the new bells and frame. Throughout his time as captain he taught many ringers, to ensure the bells would always ring out. He was particularly determined that a band would ring in the Millennium and he successfully achieved his aim. It is true to say that without his dedication the bells of Sedgley would not have been as vocal as they have been. Doug rang wherever he went including abroad in Australia, and New Zealand but many a holiday would be curtailed so he could get back to ring for Sunday service, such was his commitment.

Bell ringing was only one part of Doug's involvement with the church. He was a member of the PCC for 17 years and its chairman for some of this time. He was a wordsmith, and his church magazine articles were many, sometimes critical, always humorous - his criticism of unfamiliar hymns notorious! He was capable of strong views and would challenge if appropriate. What he said or wrote was always worthy of note and reflection.

Doug a true gentleman, one of a kind, caring for others, who made us smile with his intelligence, wit and humour. a teacher, counsellor and friend. We will miss him dearly. A few weeks ago a full peal was rung at All Saints' by a team of skilled ringers, including Susan and David, in honour and memory of Doug. We have space on one of peal boards up in the belfry which hopefully will soon show a permanent reminder of this achievement and of Doug.

**John Anderson**

## AROUND THE PARISH JULY/AUGUST 2012

**Firstly** I must apologise to Len and Harry for printing the wrong dates for their birthdays. Harry's birthday was 3rd June and Len's was 23rd June, and not as printed in last months magazine. Hope they both enjoyed their special day.

**Noah's Ark Mother's and Toddlers.** There was an extra days holiday for everyone because of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, but the week before was a very joyous and happy day. All the children had their hands painted red, white or blue and were then pressed on to paper ready to be cut out to decorate the arch and pews in the nave as if waving to the Queen. Little cakes were decorated, songs were sang and a happy time was had by all.

**On June 12th each child was presented with a New Testament by the Rev. Stephen Buckley,** written on the front cover was "To Celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012". On the back cover was written, "A Bible was given to The Queen at Her Majesty's Coronation. It was described as the world's most valuable gift. The churches in this Land are giving you this gift to mark Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee". **End of Term is the 17th July.**

**Get well Wishes** to Andrew, son of Des and Jean Round. These wishes have to go all the way to Australia. Also we pray for anyone within the Parish who is poorly at this time and wish them a speedy recovery.

**Congratulations** to Rozanne Perkins who has gained a 2:1 with Distinction, M A (Hons) Degree in Modern European Languages: Russian Studies and Spanish. She has been studying at Edinburgh University these last three years. We wish her every success in her future career.

**Congratulations** to Mark and Susan Wilks on their 25th wedding anniversary. They were married 6th June 1987 at All Saints Sedgley but now live in Chereton in Hampshire. Susan is the daughter of Peter and Val Trinder. They celebrated with a family meal.

**Sad News.** We send condolences to the family of Frank Armson, who died on the 20th May (his birthday). Frank was a well known figure in Sedgley; he was a very friendly gentleman and regularly attended Saint Andrews' Church in Bilston Street. The funeral was held on 25th June. We hope in the fullness of time happy memories will erase the sadness his family are feeling now. God be with them.

**Also** we send condolences to Judith Dunning and her family on the death of her mother, who, I believe was 98 years old. She lived a good life was full of fun to talk to, and could always see the funny side of life. She also attended Saint Andrew' Church in Bilston Street. God be with the family in the days ahead. May they soon find peace and contentment.

**Flower Festival at All Saints' Sedgley** to Celebrate 60 Years of The Queens' Reign. Hundreds of people came to visit, not just our parishioners but from all over the Diocese. There were also people from Shropshire and parts of Staffordshire. The exclamations of most people when they entered the Church was wonderful to hear. It was an outstanding success. There were twenty two arrangements, each one depicting an event in the last sixty years. So many flowers, all telling a story. The display in the church hall was well attended. It was most interesting to read peoples memories. A special **THANK YOU** must go to all who took part, those arranging the displays, the people who manned the doors in the church and hall and made the tea and coffee and encouraged the visitors to have a slice of home made cake. Well over £4,500 was raised with £1,000 already sent to the charity "**Help For Heroes**".

**The Saturday Evening Concert** was a sell out. Quite a number of people paid on the door. It was an excellent concert, congratulations, thoroughly enjoyed it, were the comments of most people. It certainly was a happy occasion. We finished with Land of Hope and Glory, the audience joining in and waving flags and finally sang God Save The Queen. This weekend will remain in the minds of many people for a long time to come.

In **1887** when it was **Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee Celebrations**. Major Naylor of Sedgley was in charge of the beacon here. People travelled from far distant places (distant at least in those days), some from Wednesbury and Bilston, to witness the beacon being lit. Rockets were fired and the beacon was then lit along with many beacons from other vantage points in the surrounding areas and so was quite spectacular. There were no buses in those days, the distance from Wednesbury is a good six miles, when the fire died down around midnight it would have been a tiring journey back home.

**Dorothy Inett**

## ALL SAINTS' CHARITY FOR JULY & AUGUST REFUGEE ACTION



### **Maryann's Story**

Imagine living in a country where you could be thrown into prison and tortured - just for taking part in a peaceful protest? Or your children being targeted by a violent mob, because you stood up for democracy? How long could you endure such a life? Maryann was an active member of the Movement for Democratic Change, the main opposition party in Zimbabwe.

She organised gatherings in her local community, which was very much like a support network for people to voice their worries and concerns about the ruling regime.

Maryann told us that the main reason why she did this was to do something about ensuring her children live in a free country one day. These activities brought her to the attention of Zanu PF Youth League, the more militant wing of the ruling party. They are well known for their provocation of and violence against anyone who stands up against President Mugabe. Maryann received several death threats and lived in fear for a long time. There was no one she could turn to protection and she felt she had no other choice but to leave the country. She came to our country in search of sanctuary. She was 55.

Maryann applied for asylum, hoping to spend the rest of her life in freedom; living a safe, normal life. But her application for asylum was turned down because she didn't have enough evidence to prove her life was in danger. Returning to Zimbabwe would've meant a certain death. Maryann stayed in the UK where she was not allowed to work and had no financial support. For years, she survived on small amounts of money from people at her local church. They took it in turns to take Maryann in for a few nights. Imagine how degrading this must feel to someone who has worked all their life.

One in two people, we at Refugee Action help, is destitute, just like Maryann. The number runs into thousands across the country; Refugee Action provides food, clothes, and money to pay for a hostel bed for a few nights. Last year, Refugee Action opened a house to give the most vulnerable women a place to call home again. Maryann now has her own bed, somewhere to cook, and £35 each week to buy food. There is even a garden, where the women grow vegetables. Maryann has finally found her sanctuary. Most importantly, Refugee Action is helping the women to get the right legal advice. Already some have received the refugee status they had been denied. We are now working with a solicitor who is helping Maryann to resolve her residency status as well.

Maryann's story shows how dignified, brave and determined refugees who contribute to our communities and our country are. If you could spare £5, Refugee Action will make sure that it will buy food for one person for one day. £35 will buy food for a whole week.

*The words refugee/asylum seeker are very emotive. The popular press continually prints articles which encourage us to see them as scroungers, cheats and liars, but as the story on the previous page shows this is far from the truth in many cases. There are many like Maryan in real danger who come to this country seeking asylum from cruel and tyrannical regimes. I first came across the charity "Refugee Action" when I heard their Radio 4 Charity Appeal, and after looking at their website, and talking to them I felt that this was an organisation which we as a church should support. We have a particular reason to do so as the Bible exhorts us to welcome the stranger and the outcast. Jesus himself began life as a refugee as Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt to escape the persecution of Herod, and during the years of his public ministry he was an itinerant preacher with no settled home.*

*You can find out more about the work of "Refugee Action" by visiting their website at [www.refugee-action.org.uk](http://www.refugee-action.org.uk), and by reading the information by the charity collection jar in church. I trust you will respond with your usual generosity.*

*Stephen Buckley*

## **LEN MILLARD**



Last month we celebrated a very special birthday at All Saints'; our verger and head server Len was 90 on Saturday 23rd June. Len was recruited by the Revd Stanley Lloyd who became vicar of All Saints' in 1957, so Len's been a fixture for a very long time, and 5 incumbents including myself have had cause to be extremely grateful for his unfailing support. At the 8.00am service on the Sunday following his birthday we expressed our thanks by presenting Len with a Jubilee Rose, a cheque and a card signed by all those present. Given Len's incredible fitness I'm sure he'll carry on serving All Saints' for a good many years to come.

**Stephen Buckley**

## **BETTER TOGETHER**

2012 marks the 6th anniversary of the signing of the Church Sharing Agreement between St Andrew's, the Striats and the Straits Community Church. We shall be marking this anniversary with a special service involving both congregation on Sunday 15th June at 9.30 am. Our preacher will be the Archdeacon of Worcester, the Ven Roger Morris.

## DUDLEY GROUP NHS HOSPITALS

I have been elected, to serve as a governor, for the next 3 years. I will represent Dudley North Area which includes Sedgley up to and including Russells Hall Hospital itself. My duties will include representing you all on the governing board and also assisting anyone who may be having difficulties or have a complaint against any area of the Dudley Group Hospitals.

I will be asking the Church to help me to recruit new members for the Group which will give you information, and access to meetings etc regarding your Local Hospitals. The more members we can recruit the stronger the Area will look to the Governing Body and the more we can influence their decisions.

Membership is FREE and includes a magazine about future plans and ideas. I hope that you will support me in trying to represent the Dudley North Area and I will be supplying forms as required. Thank you in advance

**Brian Chappell**

### “LIFE” COMES TO SEDGLEY

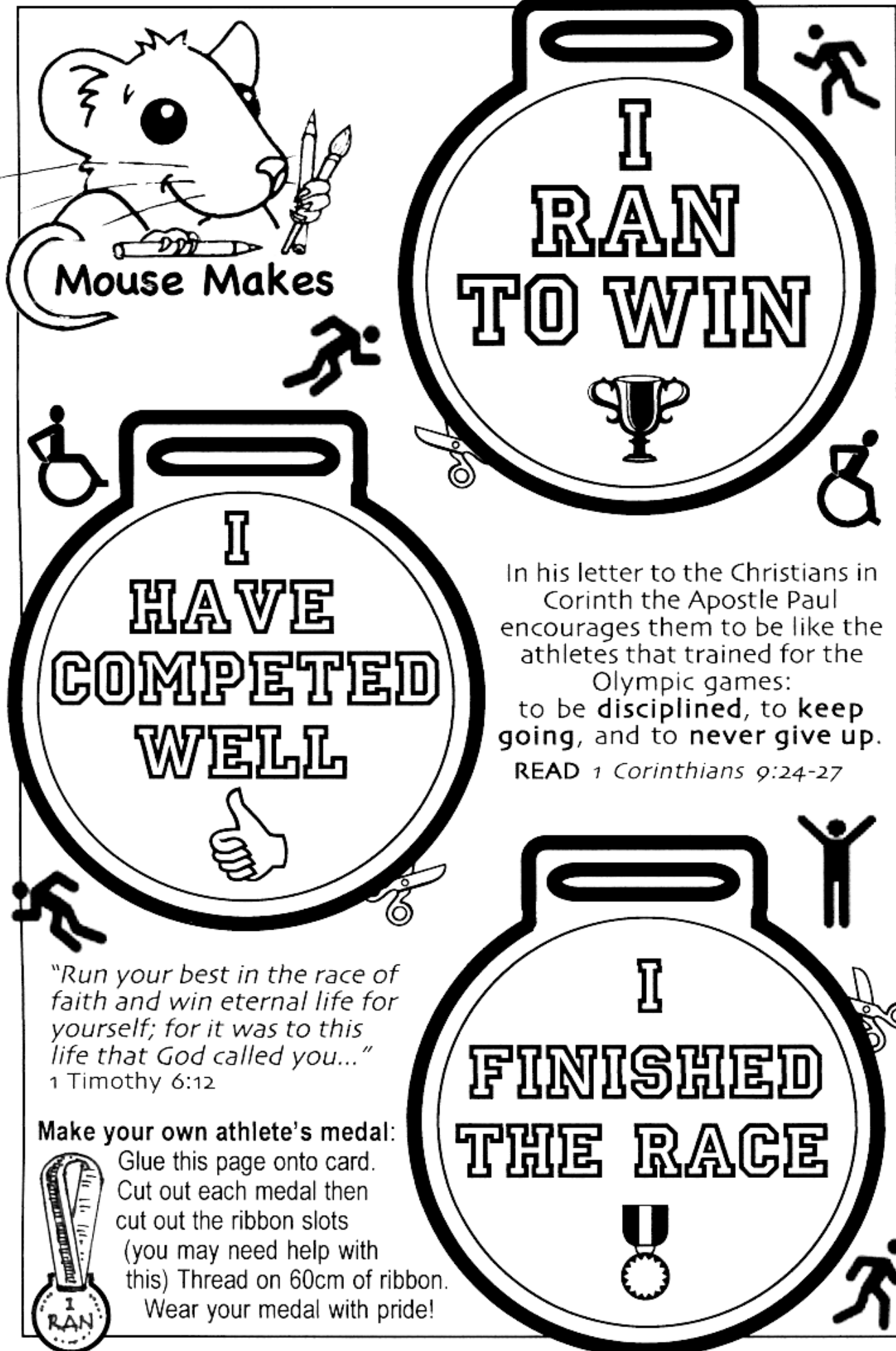


For the 3rd time in 6 years the Team churches, St Mary's, Hurst Hill and other churches in Sedgley have come together and pooled their resources to bring the “Life Exhibition” to St Andrew's, Bilston Street. For those of you who are not familiar with the format of the Exhibition it is an interactive experience for Year 6 primary school children presenting the life and teaching of Jesus in an exciting way using modern technology. This year 500 children visited the Exhibition, and the comments were overwhelmingly positive both from them and their teachers.

Our thanks to all those who helped make everything run smoothly, and especially to Martin Jones who was there for every session throughout the week making sure that the technical side of things ran smoothly, and to Paul Willmott who did a lot of the preparatory work, and was a familiar face to most of our school visitors during the week. If you want to be involved next time keep space in your diary in June 2014 when we plan to bring “Life” once again to Sedgley.

If you want to learn more about the Life Exhibition, and Counties Evangelists who organise it, just visit the church website at [www.gornalandsedgley.org](http://www.gornalandsedgley.org)





Mouse Makes

I  
RAN  
TO WIN

I  
HAVE  
COMPETED  
WELL

In his letter to the Christians in Corinth the Apostle Paul encourages them to be like the athletes that trained for the Olympic games: to be disciplined, to keep going, and to never give up.  
READ 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

"Run your best in the race of faith and win eternal life for yourself; for it was to this life that God called you..."  
1 Timothy 6:12

**Make your own athlete's medal:**  
Glue this page onto card.  
Cut out each medal then cut out the ribbon slots (you may need help with this) Thread on 60cm of ribbon.  
Wear your medal with pride!

I  
FINISHED  
THE RACE

## DIARY DATES: JULY/AUGUST

Sunday and weekday services at All Saints', St Andrew's and The Straits Community Church are advertised on page 2 of this magazine. Any alteration to this pattern is shown below. Details of the Jubilee Festival will be found elsewhere in the magazine.

### All Saints'

Sun 1 July	10.30 pm	Junior Church Festival
Mon 2 July	7.30 pm	Ladies Society meets in the church hall
Tues 3 July	2.30 pm	MU meets in the church hall
Mon 9 July	7.30 pm	Housegroup meets at 9a Turls Hill Rd
Tues 10 July	2.30 pm	Study Group meets in the social club
“	7.30 pm	DCC meets in the social club
Mon 16 July	7.45 pm	Men's Society meets in the social club
Tues 17 July	7.30 pm	MU meets in church
Mon 23 July	7.30 pm	Housegroup meets at 9a Turls Hill Rd
Tues 24 July	2.30 pm	Study Group meets in the social club
Tues 7 Aug	7.30 pm	Baptism meeting in the social club
Tues 23 Aug	10.00 am	MU Quiet Day in church
Sat 25 Aug	12.00 noon	Wedding
“	2.00 pm	Wedding

### St Andrew's

Tues 23 July	10.45 am	Joint Council meets in the church hall
Mon 16 July	7.30 pm	DCC meets in the church hall
Tues 24 June	1.45 pm	Study Group meets in the church hall

'Little Angels' Mums & Toddlers meets in the hall each Monday at 9.30 am in term time.

St Andrew's 'Silver Threads' (over 60s) meet each Wednesday from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm in the church hall.

### Diocesan, Deanery & Parish Events

Sun 15 July	7.30 pm	“Kindle” Youth Service at All Saints'
Tues 24 July	2.00 pm	Youth Committee meeting at St Andrew's Vicarage
Sun 29 July	10.30 am	Team Service at All Saints'

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

*Micah Ch 6 V 8*



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