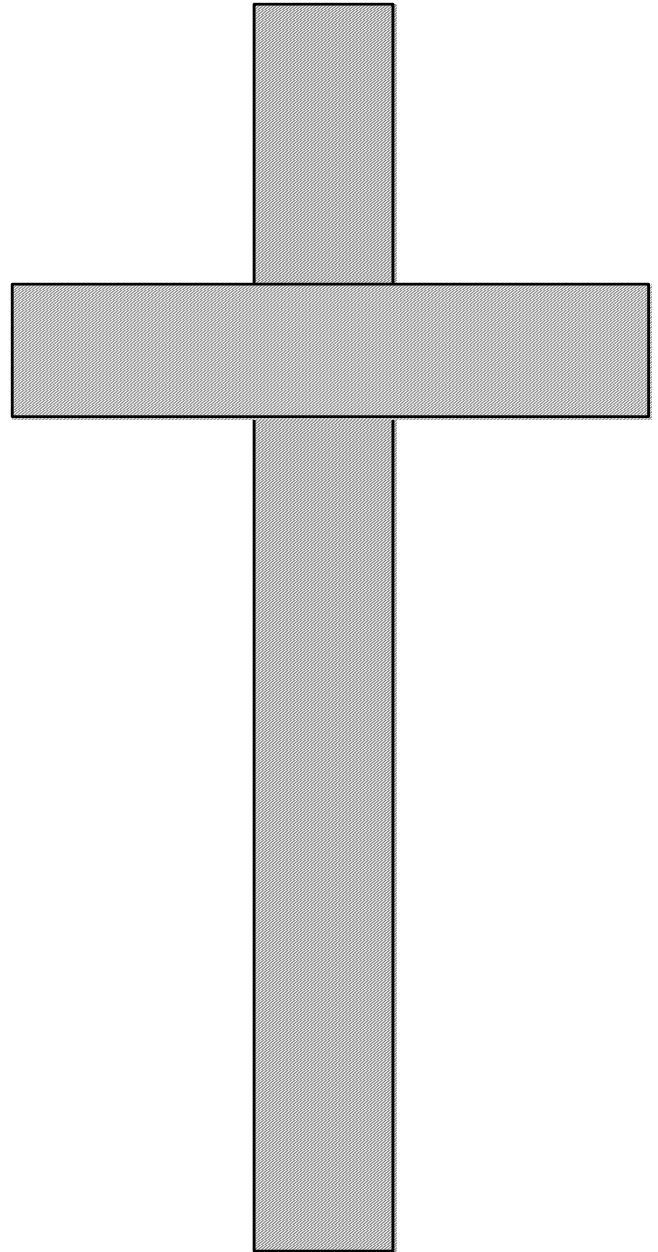
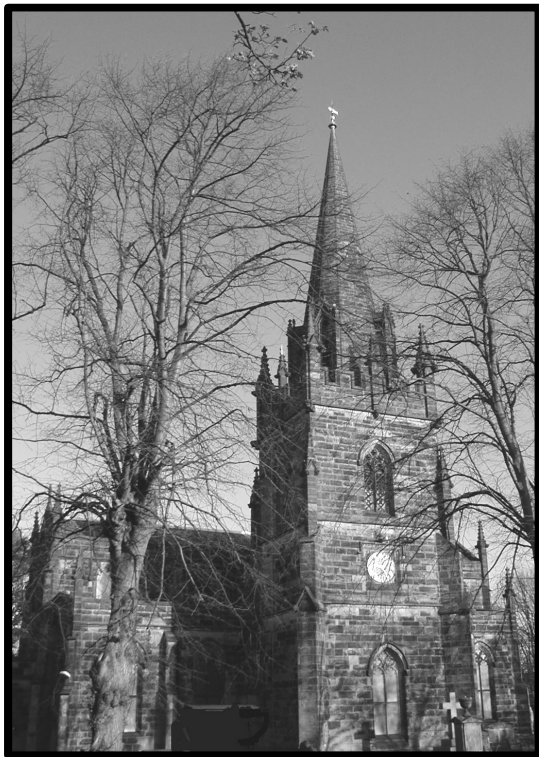


THE BEACON



50p



**APRIL
2014**

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

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 The Revd Stephen Buckley 01902 883255
(Day off Friday)

Team Vicar The Revd Andy Stand 883467
(Day off Monday)

Licensed Lay Minister
 Jan Humphries 661275

Authorised Lay Ministers

Tracey Bate 880727

Suzanne Bradley 880055

Laura Price 678572

PCC Secretary Chris Williams 672880

ALL SAINTS'

Parish Wardens Rob Lavender 661325

Derrick Turner 895066

DCC Secretary Pam Hunt 670787

Treasurer Derrick Turner 895066

Electoral Roll Liz Williams 672880

Organist Martin Platts

Bell Ringers Keith Williams 672585

Servers Len Millard 676339

Junior Church Barbara Price 676591

Youth Group Laura Price 678572

Noah's Ark Parent
& Toddler Group Linda Edwards 672556

Hall Bookings Linda Watkins 678830

Hall Caretaker Joan Moon 682902

Social Club John Dillworth 670156

Magazine Editor Christine Buckley 883255

Distribution Rob Lavender 661325

Advertising " "

Mothers' Union	Liz Williams	01902 672880
Ladies' Society	Geraldine Baker	674608
Men's Society	Roger Berry	881374

Uniformed Organisations

Rainbows	Liz Naylor	885517
Brownies	Heather Churm	674709

ST ANDREW'S

Church Warden	Jan Humphries	661275
DCC Secretary	Rosemary Reed	
Treasurer	Gordon Betteley	882777

Little Angels

Mums & Toddlers	Jan Humphries	661275
-----------------	---------------	--------

THE STRAITS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pastor	Tony Guy	473270
--------	----------	--------

PARISH WEBSITE: www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk

CHURCH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

All Saints'

23 March	Leo Ricky Andrews
"	Chase Elliot Harris
	Amy Nicole Ward

PARISH FUNERALS

21 Feb	Ronald James Sherburn, aged 85
27 Feb	David Bough, aged 86
18 March	Barbara Careless, aged 89
20 March	Valerie Ann Trinder, aged 77
26 March	Marian Taylor, aged 79

MAGAZINE MATERIAL

Articles for the May magazine should be sent to the Vicarage by Sunday 20th April. These may be sent by e-mail to 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.

FLOWERS IN APRIL

6th April	Lent 5 – No flowers
13th April	Palm Sunday – No flowers
20th April	Easter Day – Bob Hill
27th April	Easter 2 – Pam Garrington

CHURCH OPENING



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

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

We will be pleased to see you.

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

All Saints'

Palm Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist & Distribution of Palms
	6.30 pm	'The Man From Galilee'
Maundy Thursday	7.30 pm	Sung Eucharist & Stripping of the Altars* Followed by The Watch
Good Friday	10.00 am	Children's G/F Workshop in the church hall
	10.00 am	Outdoor Service at the Bullring
	2.00 pm	Good Friday Liturgy
	7.30 pm	The Cross of Christ
Easter Saturday	9.00 pm	Easter Ceremonies*
Easter Day	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong

St Andrew's

Palm Sunday	9.30 am	Holy Communion & Distribution of Palms
Good Friday	2.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Easter Day	9.30 am	Holy Communion

Team Services

Monday	7.30 pm	Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Tuesday	7.30 pm	Holy Communion at St Peter's
Wednesday	7.30 pm	Holy Communion at All Saints'

**St Andrew's will join with All Saints' for these services.*

AN EMPTY CELEBRATION!

Philip always seemed different to his eight-year-old Sunday school classmates. Several weeks before Easter, Philip's teacher told them the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. To make the point about new life, she gave each child a large plastic egg: 'I want you to take this home and bring it back with something inside that shows new life.'

Enthusiastically, the class responded and the eggs were opened as each child explained the meaning of their symbol. In the first egg was a flower; in the next a plastic butterfly, while the third contained green grass. Then the teacher opened the fourth egg; however the egg was empty! 'That's stupid', said one child. Another grumbled, 'Someone didn't do it right!' The teacher felt a tug on his shirt. It was Phillip, who said, 'That's mine, and I did do right! It's empty, because Jesus' tomb was empty.'

He got it right!! The greatest symbol of new life is an empty tomb! 'The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you.'" (Matt. 28:5-7).

Now there are three Empty Promises that we can celebrate this Easter:

An Empty Tomb. Without the empty tomb, we have no Saviour. For those who know Jesus as their Lord, there is no fear in death and we share the assurance of an eternity spent with Jesus and sharing his resurrection life.

An Empty Cross. The promise of an empty cross is that we can stand forgiven of our sins before God. Jesus' cry on the cross 'It is finished!' is a cry of triumph, because the barrier of sin between us and God has finally and eternally been removed. God is with us and working through us.

An Empty Life. This world can only offer transitory satisfaction and security, while the joy of the Lord lasts forever. Our God specialises in filling up the emptiness of this life with his joy, peace forgiveness and new life. Nothing in this world will ultimately satisfy us except Jesus himself.

So Easter reminds us: 'The world gives us promises full of emptiness, but God gives us emptiness full of promise!'

INTRODUCING THE NEW BISHOP OF DUDLEY THE RT REVD GRAHAM USHER



The Revd Canon Graham Usher was born in 1970 and spent his early life in Ghana. He was educated at Pocklington School in Yorkshire and then studied for a BSc Ecological Science (Ecology) at Edinburgh University followed by gaining a degree in Theology at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, whilst training for ordination at Westcott House, Cambridge.

After his ordination in 1996, Graham served his curacy at St Mary's Nunthorpe in the Diocese of York, a large commuter suburb of Middlesbrough with four congregations and a significant amount of youth work. While there, Graham spent time as a Sessional Chaplain at HM Remand Centre at Northallerton, working with young offenders, and became a part-time producer with BBC Radio Cleveland, working on their Sunday religious news programme.

From here Graham moved to be Vicar of Holy Trinity in North Ormesby, Middlesbrough – at that time one of England's 2% most deprived communities, experiencing considerable poverty and social exclusion. A focus on the Church and community led to a growth in the congregation and the development and completion of a flagship community facility, The Trinity Centre, which was awarded HRH The Duke of York's Community Initiative Award.

In 2004, Graham moved to become Rector and Lecturer of Hexham. Hexham Abbey is part of the Greater Churches' Network and, whilst very much a parish church, has some of the outreach and facets found in many cathedrals. Graham worked with the congregation and partners developing a vision for the Abbey and its community and since his appointment the congregation has grown, links with the town and county have significantly increased, and the Abbey has been reunited with its historic monastic buildings which were taken from it at the Reformation. Graham was also Area Dean for five years from 2006.

Alongside his parish responsibilities, Graham is currently a Lay Member of the Governance and Access Committee of the Newcastle Biomedicine Biobank at Newcastle University, where he is involved in ethical discussions about human tissue storage and ensuring consent and dignity. He is also Chairman of the Northeast Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committee and is a Secretary of State appointee to the Northumberland National Park Authority.

In 2012, Graham's book *Places of Enchantment – Meeting God in Landscapes* was published by SPCK. Graham has also previously been a member of the Scout Movement, including being a national trustee, and has been involved with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. For a number of years he was a Director of the Bible Reading Fellowship.

Graham is married to Rachel, a GP, and they have two children, Chad age 13 and Olivia age 11. In his spare time he enjoys hill walking, drawing, writing, and the company of friends.

Bishop Graham was consecrated on Tuesday 25th March at St Paul's Cathedral. There will be a welcome service at St Thomas' (Top Church), Dudley, on Saturday 3rd April at 4.00 pm. Bishop Graham will be installed as a Canon of Worcester Cathedral during Evensong on Sunday 4th May at 4.00 pm. You are very welcome to attend these services, but please let me know so that the organisers have an idea of numbers attending.

Stephen Buckley



"I'm really not sure about this trend for clergy dressing down, dear."

MOTHERS' UNION

We were pleased to have Stephen with us at our afternoon meeting in March. He had prepared a Lent service in which we reflected on the temptations of Christ in the wilderness, and the temptations of the 21st Century, through readings, prayers and periods of meditation.

Anne and Crispin Ridge told us of the 'Life and Culture of Morocco' at our evening meeting. The North African country of Morocco has Atlantic and Mediterranean coastlines, mountain ranges, desert areas, beautiful architecture and a rich culture. We heard about the villages of mud brick houses and the friendliness of the local people. Anne told us of their visit to Marrakesh with its maze of souks selling vibrantly coloured carpets, leatherwork, ceramics and metalwork. The Majorelle Gardens, at Marrakesh, designed by a French painter, Jacques Majorelle, looked beautiful with their many rare plants and amazing array of cacti.

In 1980 the gardens were bought by Pierre Berge and Yves Saint Laurent who restored them. When Yves Saint Laurent died a few years ago his ashes were scattered there. The Saadian Tombs, just outside Marrakesh, were sealed up for centuries, surrounded by a high wall, before being rediscovered in 1917. These royal tombs have been restored and are magnificently decorated with carvings and surrounded by walls of beautifully coloured tiles. In contrast Anne and Crispin visited Essaouira, on the coast, with its lovely fishing harbour. We were treated to a very interesting insight into Morocco and I thank Anne, Crispin and Stephen (technical support) for an enjoyable evening.

Our Lent Project this year is as in previous years to provide items for the Women's Refuge. Lists of the items needed are on the Mothers' Union noticeboard and there will be a box in the narthex in which to place items during Lent. The Coffee Morning and Collection will be on Saturday 3rd May, 10am – 12noon.

Our evening meeting this month has been moved due to the 3rd Tuesday falling in Holy Week. Corporate Communion will be a week earlier than usual.

Dates

1st April	2.30pm	The Seeds we Sow: June Young
8th April	7.30pm	Unexpected Journeys: Revd Sue Oliver
13th April	6.30pm	'The Man from Galilee', in church
14th April	10.00am	Corporate Communion

Liz Williams

LADIES SOCIETY

Local History, by Martin Jones

Martin's talk was based on the history of one house in Sedgley, 'The Limes'. The story began with the Tinsley family, mainly Eliza, who lived there with her husband. They owned other properties in the area one of which was The Leopard, the public house on Moden Hill.

Thomas Tinsley's main source of income however was his nail and chain making business. After his death, the business was carried on by his wife Eliza and it became the largest nail and chain making business company in Staffordshire and by 1861 had 3,000 employees! In 1872 the business was sold, but continued to trade under the name Eliza Tinsley & Co. It is still trading under that name to this day! Eliza died aged 68 in 1882. A William Foster then bought the house but in 1919 he died after throwing himself in front of a train in London!

The Limes was sold again in 1921 and in 1931 it was bought by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham who owned it until 1949. It was requisitioned in 1938 in the lead up to the war and it became the headquarters of the A.R.P. and the Auxiliary Fire Service. The 'Observation Tower' was used by Fire Watchers. During the talk, there were many pictures shown on the screen relating to the various stages of The Limes' history. We also saw a picture of a certificate presented to William Cox for the ARP and a photograph of the Sedgley Fire Watchers. After the war the property was acquired by Sedgley UDC and we saw pictures of the interior showing how the various rooms in the basement, ground floor and the first floor were used. Our member Pam Garrington worked there from 1962 to 1964.

It was at this point that Martin said how helpful Dudley Archives have been in helping him with his research and recommends that anyone wishing to learn about other local interests or individual people, to go there and they will receive all the help possible. The Limes has now been converted into flats and stands proudly as the focal point amidst a new complex of modern houses and apartments.

Thank you so much Martin for this enlightening talk. It is so interesting to hear about the history of a building that you pass by regularly without giving it a thought! We hope that you might reveal some more of Sedgley's past at some other time.

Our next meeting will be on the 7th April when we will have a talk by our old friend Patricia Boyd, entitled 'Diamond Jubilee' which I know will be interesting and amusing. I hope to see you there.

Molly Taft

Castle & Blinds AWNINGS



Vertical Blinds
Roller Blinds
Plantation Shutters
Conservatory Blinds
Child Safety Blinds
Canopies

Venetian Blinds
Roman Blinds
Pleated Blinds
Shade Sails
Awnings



FREE
QUOTATION
& Home Visit



Call us **NOW** 0800 163 429

Showroom: Portway House, Stream Road, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 9NT



We offer daily pet visits and sitting services for dogs, cats and other small pets. We also offer a dog walking service, tailored to your dogs needs, in Dudley, Gornal, Sedgley and surrounding areas.

CRB cleared and pet first aid trained to give you peace of mind.

www.abcpetsitters.co.uk

Email abcpetsitters@virginmedia.com

Tel 01902 677086

HADEN NEWSAGENTS

**35 Dudley Street
Sedgley
Tel. 01902 674200**

**Newspapers, Confection-
ary,
Magazines, Tobacco,
Stationery, Greeting Cards,
Payzone/Mobile Top Up
Gas/Electricity payments**

R T KNIGHT OPTICIANS Independent, Professional Eye care

**Contact Lens Centre
Glaucoma Screening**



**8 Dudley Street
Sedgley
Dudley
West Midlands DY3 1SB
Tel. 01902 883260**

**TO ADVERTISE IN THIS
MAGAZINE CONTACT
ALL SAINTS' VICARAGE**

**Tel 01902 883255
E mail: srb55@talktalk.net**

Rates for 12 months

Quarter page	£25
Half page	£40
Full page	£70

**The magazine is distributed
to 350 households in the
Sedgley area**



Kevin Weston Decorating

**Special rates for Senior Citizens
Local Authority approved
Advanced City & Guilds
23 years' experience
Free quotations**

Member of the Guild of Master Craftsmen

12 Himley Lane, Swindon DY3 4PW

**01384 401859
07981 596109**

**City &
Guilds**



CONSTRUCTORLINE



Accredited Contractor



CONSTRUCTION SKILLS
CERTIFICATION SCHEME



Sarah Powell

Foot Health Practitioner

RGN Dip, CFHP, MPSP (FHP)



Friendly Home visiting services in this area

- Foot health check
- Nails trimmed
- Corns and calluses treated
- Problem nails treated
- Foot massage to finish
- After-care advice given
- Discount given for initial treatment

For more information or to make an
Appointment please 'phone 01902 671824

Jennings

Funeral Directors



Here for you, whenever you need us, 24 hours a day.

We are proud to have been serving
the local community since 1848.

Providing a choice of funerals and
memorials to suit all budgets. Our
friendly arrangers can also offer help
and advice with pre-paid funeral
planning.

For details of your local branch or
to arrange a home visit please call

01902 661137



www.jenningsfunerals.co.uk

Paul Catmull, Funeral Director

**FOR A GREAT DEAL
CONSULT**

K G J

**INSURANCE SERVICES
(MIDLANDS) LTD
BILSTON ST, SEDGLEY**

For low cost motor insurance
Household insurance
Personal accident &
travel insurance

Payment by instalments available
Written details on request
For a free quotation call:
01902 880044

ANGELINA'S CLEANERS

Regular or Occasional Cleaners

Reliable, local family run
domestic cleaning service for
Coseley, Gornal,
Sedgley & Tipton

**CRB Checked
Fully Insured
References Available**

Tel. Maria on
01902 409384
or
07969 079531



Ian Hipkiss Driving School

07837 767344

01902 881361

ianhipkissdrivingschool@hotmail.co.uk

**Block Booking Discounts
Pass plus Tuition
Free Theory Test Guidance
First Lesson: 2 hours for price of 1**

**Sandyfields
Home improvements
Andy Barnfield**

Painting & Decorating

Flooring & Fencing

Jet Washing & Gardening

45 Sandyfields Road
Sedgley
Dudley
West Midlands DY3 3LB

Tel: 01902 884807
Mob: 07852 435060



**Dental
Surgery**

**Stephen L Rees
B.D.S. U. Birm MFGDP (UK)**

Tel:

01902 670080

**The Surgery
Sedgley Hall Avenue
Sedgley
Dudley
DY3 3TA**

Taylors

**Independent Estate
Agents & Valuers**

**For a friendly &
personal service**

**2A Dudley Street
Sedgley
Dudley
West Midlands DY3 1SB**

**Tel. 01902 880888
Fax 01902 665075**

www.Taylors-estateagents.co.uk



**JENNY'S
KITCHEN**
Speciality Caterers

Evening & lunchtime
catering to suit
all occasions

Full waitress service
(Ask for details)

Tel: 01384 400733

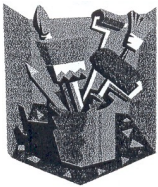
www.jennyskitchen.co.uk

Phil Orton

Painting & Decorating Services

**Papering - Painting
Property Maintenance
Houses - Shops - Offices
Residential & Commercial**

**Member of
Dudley Age Concern
Fix a Home Scheme**



**For an estimate:
Tel: 01902 894830
Mob: 07974 281894**

Worth Sides



Turf Specialist Quality Lawn Maintenance

**Mowing & Edging Turf Installation
Hedge Trimming Light Hauling**

Wood Chip Mulching

Pressure Washing

**Mobile 07816 250387
Home 01902 881206**

P & C ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SERVICES

**FULLY QUALIFIED
DOMESTIC INSTALLER**

**From changing a Light Fitting
to a Consumer Board**

**From a Dripping Tap to a
complete Bathroom Suite**

**No job too small
No job too big**

**Call Phil: 01902 673 419
Mob. 07836 770135
Alderbrook Close, Sedgley**

HARTILLS OF SEDGLEY MONUMENTAL MASONS (BRAMM REGISTERED)

**MEMORIALS OF
DISTINCTION**

**New Memorials
Additional Inscriptions
Renovations**

**Unit 1D
High Street, Sedgley
DY3 1RP**

Tel/Fax 01902 882466

The Shaggy Dog

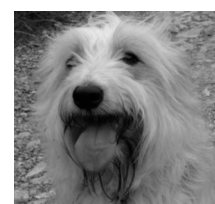
Pet Grooming Centre for Dogs and Cats

*For busy people we take bookings
for Bank Holidays and Sundays*

17 Bilston St, Sedgley DY3 1JA

Tel: 01902 661377

Evenings: 01902 677869



(As recommended by Maisie, the Vicarage Dog)

GLS ALARMS

SECURITY SYSTEMS SPECIALISTS

Intruder Alarms, Maintenance Contracts

Repairs & Upgrades, Annual Service

Existing systems maintained & repaired



Est. 15 years - Insurance Approved
sahib registered installer



68 Longmeadow Drive, Sedgley DY3 3QR

Tel: 01902 883188

J. HARTLAND & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

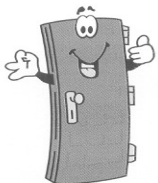
A long established business offering a dignified
24 hour service.

To make an arrangement, or for advice
on masonry or pre-paid funeral plans,
please telephone or call in.

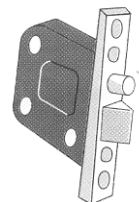
79 Clifton Street, Sedgley
01902 883218



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

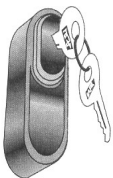


L A J LOCKSMITH



For all your household needs
Replacement locks/keys
Lockouts, Servicing
Repairs & security upgrades
Motorcycle security, chains & padlocks
Friendly service

(Don't forget to add the tel. no. to your mobile, you
never know when you might need to use it!!)



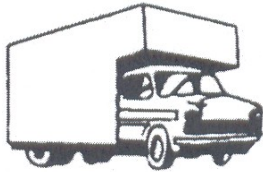
Tel: 07905882148

E-mail: lajlocksmith@live.co.uk



RUSSELLS REMOVALS

**House & Office Removals
Fully Insured**



**Clearances & Storage
Free Estimates**

**13 Robert Street
Lower Gornal
Dudley DY3 2AZ**

Tel. 01902 680081

SWEET TRADITIONS DUDLEY STREET SEDGLEY



**Old Fashioned &
Traditional Sweets
Pick and Mix
Gifts and More
Children's Party Bags**

Tel: Sedgley 07906 653937

sweettraditions@virginmedia.com

Has Gareth Malone inspired you to sing?

Then come and join us!



We are

Coseley Male Voice Choir



**And we want more men to join us.
Tenors particularly welcome.**

**We practise on Monday evenings approximately
1 mile from Sedgley. If you are interested
please urgently call Gordon on 01902 658402.**

**We are also taking Concert Bookings for 2013
and if you would like the Choir to perform for
you please speak to Sheila on 0121 520 0739.**

SEDGLEY POWERWASH SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL DRIVEWAY

&

PATIO CLEANING SERVICE

AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

SKYVAC

A CAMERA GUIDED GUTTER CLEANING VACUUM

Prices start from £20

Call for a free no obligation quote

Contact Pete on 07791 241952

www.sedgleypowerwash.co.uk

email: pete-mason@live.co.uk

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HALL

**The hall is available for hire by groups
on a weekly basis, or for one-off events.**

(No private parties)

For further information please contact:


Linda Watkins

Tel. 01902 678830

INTERCESSIONS FOR APRIL

- 1st Teachers of the faith
- 2nd The West Midlands Fire & Rescue Service
- 3rd The Hospice movement
- 4th Our faith
- 5th The Society of St Francis
- 6th Passion Sunday
- 7th World peace
- 8th Dudley MBC
- 9th Dietrich Bonhoeffer, martyr
- 10th William Law, priest & writer
- 11th George Selwyn, bishop
- 12th Refugees
- 13th Palm Sunday
- 14th The persecuted church
- 15th The Gornal & Sedgley Team
- 16th 'Lord, teach us how to pray'
- 17th Maundy Thursday
- 18th Good Friday
- 19th Easter Eve
- 20th Easter Day: 'Jesus Lives'
- 21st West Midlands Ambulance Service
- 22nd Beacon Centre
- 23rd George, martyr & patron of England
- 24th The homeless
- 25th Mark the Evangelist
- 26th The West Midlands Police
- 27th The Anglican Communion
- 28th Residential & care homes in the parish
- 29th Mothers' Union throughout the world
- 30th Armed forces serving overseas

Robert Hill



BARN DANCE
WITH
FOLK AND A JOKE

featuring
THE
EVE EVANS EXPERIENCE

Sat May 10th 2014 in the Church Hall

7.30pm to 11.00pm

**Fish & Chip Supper included
and Bar available**

Tickets £7

Available from:

**Roger Berry 01902 881374 or
John Howe 01902 678576**

JUST THOUGHTS

Today will never come again, be a blessing, be a friend, encourage someone. Take time to care, let your words heal not wound.

When we choose to see only; the kindness, the goodness, and the magnificence on others, then that is exactly what we will find in them.

Don't let the world change your smile, use your smile to change the world.

Life is not about how hard you can hit. It's about how many hits you can take and still keep moving forward.

The greatest treasures are not those you can see with your eyes, but those that are to be found in your heart.

Doubt can kill more dreams than failures ever can.

Be *mindful* in your attitude to life by considering these pointers, be aware of:

- M - Moment to moment attention.
- I - In the here and now.
- N - Non judgmental attitude.
- D - Detach yourself from unhelpful thoughts.
- F - Forgive and be grateful.
- U - Unconditional acceptance.
- L - Learn with a childlike mind.

You may never know the moment when a few sincere words may have a life long impact on another person.

Don't use your energy up worrying, use it to believe.

It's often in the darkest of skies that we see the brightest stars.

Sometime we need to just stop, breathe, exhale, allowing ourselves to catch up a bit, and then prepare ourselves to start all over again.

Your faith can take you to where the impossible becomes real.

Always pray that you may have: eyes to see the best in people, a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad, and a soul that never loses faith.

Goodbyes are not forever, goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean I'll miss you until we meet again.

Being loved deeply gives you strength. Loving deeply gives you courage.

A person who truly loves is one who realises that loyalty must go hand in hand with freedom.

The way you start your day can affect your whole day, so begin it with a smile, calmness of the mind, coolness of emotions and a heart filled with gratitude.

You can close your eyes to something you don't want to see, but you can't close your heart to something you don't want to feel.

Don't talk about me, until you have spoken to me, don't underestimate me until you have challenged me, don't judge me until you know me.

Forgiveness does not excuse a person's behaviour, but forgiveness prevents their behaviour from destroying your heart and life.

Our greatest test is when we are able to bless someone else whilst we are going through our own storms.

Breathe deeply and let your body catch up with your spirit.

There are places in your heart that you don't know exist until you love a child.

Always end the day with positive thoughts, no matter how hard things are, tomorrow is a fresh opportunity to make things better.

May this day bring you peace, tranquillity and harmony within yourself.

Compiled by David Melhuish



*Mary wished she'd never mentioned
Fresh Expressions of Church*

AROUND THE PARISH

Women's World Day of Prayer. This year the service was held at the Community Church in Bilston Street. It is always held on the first Friday in March, a tradition started in 1887 when all women met together to pray. For 127 years it has continued all over the world. It is the first time we have held the service in the Community Church which replaced the little chapel known as the Come Come Chapel. The new church is much bigger and is able to serve the community.

The Deputy Mayor, Mrs Margaret Aston, and Councillor Adam Aston joined us for lunch, which was waitress service, and the service which followed. This year the service was prepared by the Christian women of Egypt. The speaker was Mrs Glennis Hide. It was reasonably well attended but unfortunately clashed with Fair Trade coffee morning at All Saints' although Clunis Chesworth came with a stall of Fair Trade goods. There are five churches in the group: All Saints', St Andrew's Bilston Street, St Chad's Catholic Church, Salvation Army and the Community Church. Over many years friendships have been formed. A special thank you to all members of the Community Church for the welcome we received.

Sad News. Val Trinder died on Friday 7th March after a long illness. We send our condolences to Peter, children Susan and Jonathan, and the grandchildren. Val was a very friendly person, always pleasant to everyone she met. Many may remember when she worked in the dress shop in Bilston Street. The funeral was held on Thursday 23rd March at All Saints', attended by many friends and church members. We hope and pray that in the fullness of time happy memories will help to dull the pain the family are feeling now. God be with them at this sad time.

Please remember in your prayers **Derrick Turner** and **Pam Garrington**, both still quite poorly.

Thank you to the Flower ladies who did a beautiful arrangement of flowers in the church porch in memory of Les Inett.

Congratulations to Philippa Watton, granddaughter of David and Maureen Matthews, who celebrated her 18th birthday on 4th March with a family party at the Café Casita in Sedgley. The following evening, in the company with friends, she went Go-Karting. Much fun was had by all. To finish off her celebrations she is booked to see Miranda Hart at the NIA in April.

We welcomed our **new Organist Martin Platts** on Sunday 2nd March and the last hymn was sung to the tune of the Dambusters. He often pops in to church on a Friday morning to play the organ. I must say it is very pleasant too.

News from Noah's Ark. Plans are well ahead for Mothering Tuesday celebrations. To start the day there shall be a short service in church when each child shall light a candle and be blessed by the Vicar. It will then be off to the church hall for the final celebrations. I know lots of things are planned and they will be reported in next month's magazine. The Easter bonnet parade is on Tuesday 8th April which is also the last day of term. The summer term begins 29th April.

Dorothy Inett

THANK YOU

On behalf of Jean and myself I would like to thank all at All Saints for the cards, flowers, telephone calls and visits during the period of my illness. As Stephen said in the annual report I had a heart attack leaving me at the moment confined to home. We are very appreciative of the good wishes and prayers extended. I was surprised with the beautiful Thank You card given with the present yesterday. I have considered it a privilege to have held the position of treasurer and Church Warden and I wish all success to my replacement.

God Bless, Derrick & Jean Turner

EASTER MORNING – SUNRISE SERVICE

Everyone is invited to a short service on Sedgley Beacon to celebrate the good news of Easter Day. We shall meet near the Beacon Tower at 5.45 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Keith Flinders on 01902 674538 or e mail keithflinders@aol.com

TEAM SERVICES IN APRIL

We shall be holding Team Services on the following dates:

Sun 6th April: 10.30 am at St Peter's, followed by the Parish AGM

Sun 27th April: 10.30 am at St Andrew's, followed by a 'Bring & Share' lunch.

The service on the 27th is to mark the 100th anniversary of St Andrew's church building, and will be led Bishop John. In the afternoon at 2.30 pm there will be a 'Songs of Praise' accompanied by a Salvation Army Band.

WHY WE SHOULD BE LIKE DONKEYS

Are you a pet-lover? Many people own a dog, a cat or a budgie, but most of us don't own a donkey! Yet in Bible times, donkeys were essential to daily life. They did everything from helping to grind corn, to ploughing, to carrying people, to transporting their belongings. Despite their small frame, donkeys are surprisingly tough. They are content with poor fodder like thistles, and can travel an average of 20 miles a day.

There are two occasions in the Christian calendar where donkeys walk into the picture. At Christmas, Mary travelled the 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey. And although a donkey doesn't get a specific mention in the manger story, that same one that transported her was probably there; where else would it have been?

On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Jesus deliberately chose this animal rather than a horse. Why? In Bible times, the horse was associated with war, conquest and worldly might. But the donkey was a symbol of peace and humility. Jesus used this animal to show that he had come with the dignity of the king of peace. His entry into the Holy City also fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy concerning the Messiah.

Donkeys are hardworking and undemanding. They wait for their master to put them to the work he has chosen for them. And, remarkably, each one bears the mark of the Cross on their backs! Perhaps that is something we should learn; to wait for Jesus our Master, to be always obedient to him, to serve him with all our hearts, and to bear the mark of his grace in our lives.

LAUGH LINES

A small boy wanted a baby brother, so his father suggested he pray every night for one. The boy began to pray earnestly, night after night. When nothing happened, he gave up. After a few months his dad said they were going to see mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. "Well, what do you think about having twin brothers?" his dad asked. The little boy thought for a moment and replied: "It is a good thing I stopped praying when I did."

The evangelist Billy Graham tells of a time early in his career when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to post a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy told him, Billy Graham thanked him and said: "If you'll come to the Baptist church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven." The boy looked surprised, and finally stammered: "But you don't even know your way to the post office."

BOOK REVIEWS

Was the Tomb Empty? A lawyer weighs the evidence for the resurrection by Graeme Smith, Lion Hudson, £7.99

A highly qualified British judge examines the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Assessing secular evidence, historical sources, and the testimony of those involved Graeme Smith carefully and critically analyses the various resurrection accounts, their inconsistencies and their value as evidence.

This succinct but powerful document places less weight on the Gospel accounts and considers other evidence first; sources from outside the gospels, such as Josephus, Tacitus and Pliny; logical alternatives to the resurrection; and the opinions of experts in the fields of history, literary history, palaeography and law. Could this most improbable story be true? If so, what are the implications?

Against the Odds by Carmel Thomason, BRF, £8.99

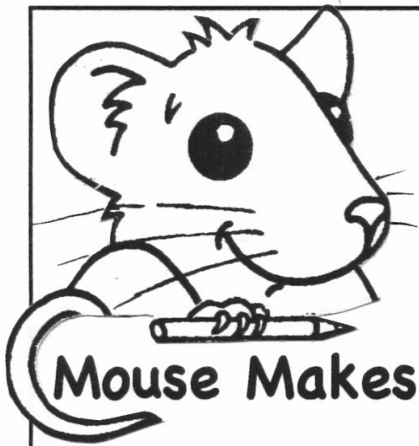
‘As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn’t leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I’d still be in prison’, wrote Nelson Mandela. Why is it that some people can cope with terrible hurt that others inflict on them, while others, take hurt at some slight, and fill up with bitterness and hate? How can attitudes be so different? The answer, suggests this book, lies in the capacity to forgive. Carmel believes that Jesus’ teaching on forgiveness is for everyone to practise, not just a chosen few. Here she presents eight true stories demonstrating the healing that can flow through forgiveness.

The testimonies in Part 1 explore the personal face of society’s ills – war, crime and terrorism – telling the stories of people who have lost practically everything, whether through war-time imprisonment, rape or the devastation caused by a terrorist bomb. In Part 2 the stories are of everyday forgiveness, asking the reader: ‘Are we keeping a record of wrongs?’ They include stories of the pain of divorce, of sibling rivalry and of resolving the choice between being right or being loved. All in all, an inspiring book!

Bible Stories for Girls by Christina Goodings and Simona Bursi Lion Children, £8.99

Bible Stories for Boys by Peter Martin and Simona Bursi, Lion Children, £8.99

A collection of eight Bible stories, chosen especially to appeal to girls and boys, respectively. These stories of faith have been retold in a contemporary voice that is easy to relate to. The stories are prefaced with a short introduction encouraging the reader to think about the message contained in each; at the back of the book there is a section that sets the stories in context and shows where to find them in the Bible. The illustrations are sophisticated with a classical feel, but have been given a modern edge.



Mouse Makes

Glue onto card, colour, cut out the cross and hang up.

HE IS
RISEN

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women went to Jesus' tomb. They found the stone rolled away but when they went in they did not find Jesus' body...



Jesus is risen

The angel said;
"Jesus...is not here, for he has risen, just as he said."
Matthew 28:6

Jesus is here

Jesus said;
"Where two or three come together in my name I am there with them."
Matthew 18:20

Jesus will come again

Jesus said;
"I will come back and take you to myself so that you will be where I am."
John 14:3

...Suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them and said,

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"



READ the Resurrection story in **Luke 24** and **John 20** and **21**.

How many people saw the risen Jesus?

JESUS
IS ALIVE

DIARY DATES: APRIL

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 Easter services will be found on page 6 of this magazine.

All Saints'

Tues 1st April	2.30 pm	MU meets in the church hall
Mon 7th April	7.30 pm	Ladies' Society meets in the church hall
Tues 16th April	7.30 pm	MU meets in church
Mon 21st April	7.45 pm	Men's Society meets in the social club
Tues 29th April	7.30 pm	Baptism meeting in the social club

'Noah's Ark' Mums & Toddlers meets in the hall on Tuesdays at 9.30 am in term time.

St Andrew's

Festival Weekend (100th anniversary)

Sat 26th April	10.00 am	Exhibition of history of St Andrew's
Sun 27th April	10.30 am	Anniversary Service (Led by Bishop John) (Followed by a 'Bring & Share' lunch in the church hall)
	2.30 pm	Songs of Praise (Salvation Army Band)

'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.

Parish & Deanery Meetings/Services

Sun 6th April	10.30 am	Team Service at St Peter's (Followed by the APCM in the church hall)
Sun 27th April	10.30 am	Team Service at St Andrew's

- Independent Funeral Directors since 1850 -

A. & A. Walters

- Allow our family to care for yours -

National Award Winning Funeral Director



Caring personal service.
Floristry & Masonry.
All faiths in all areas.
Quality at sensible prices.



0121-557-1347 (24hr)

Horse-Drawn Hearse &
Funeral Plan Specialist.

Golden Charter National
Funeral Planner of the Year.



Trusted for five generations

www.waltersfunerals.co.uk

The Old Manse, 85 Dudley Road, Tipton, DY4 8ED