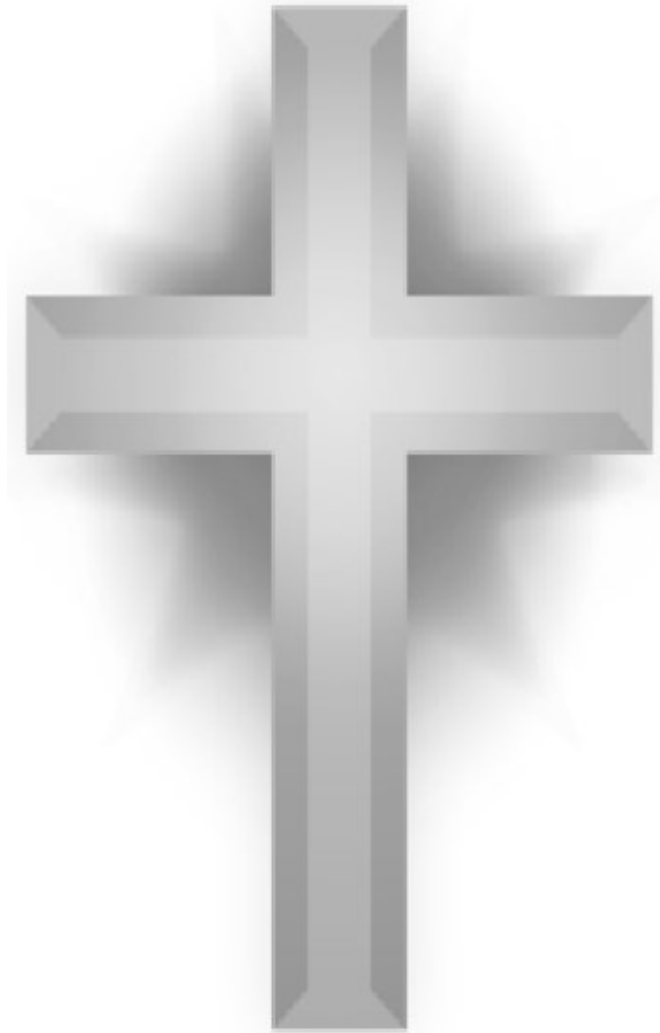
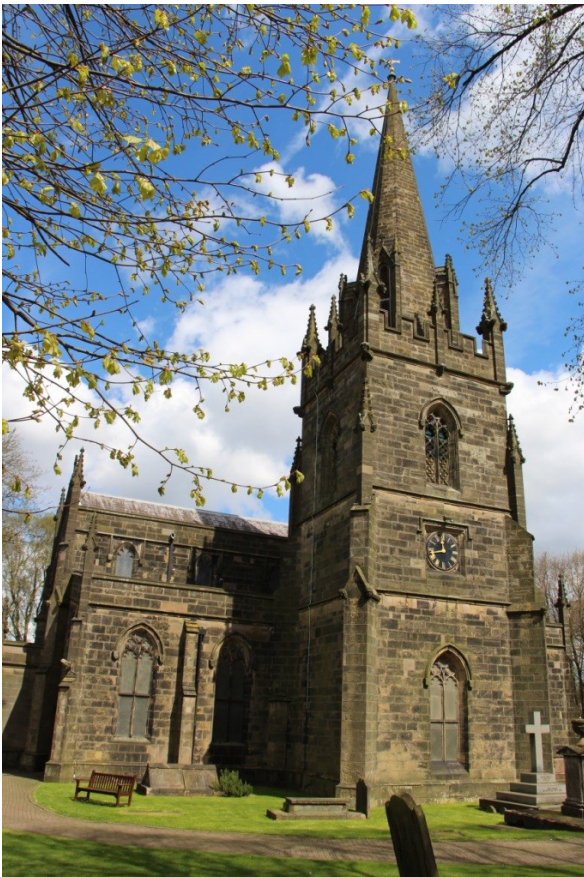


THE BEACON

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS, SEDGLEY
& ST.ANDREW'S THE STRAITS

Registered Charity Number 1179471



Kingdom People
love • compassion • justice • freedom

50p

SEPTEMBER 2019

WHO's WHO

Team Rector	Revd Guy Hewlett	01902 295164
Team Vicar	Rev Catherine Mitchell	01902 677897
Licensed Lay Minister	Canon Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Barbara Baker	01902 882847
Pastoral Care	Tracey Bate	01902 680727
Worship Leader	Suzanne Bradley	01902 880055
Youth Leader/Children's Advocate	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
PCC Secretary	Kath Apperley	01902 663253
Vestry Clerk	Chris Williams	01902 672880
Parish Office information baptisms, weddings, funerals and hall bookings.	Gail Griffiths	01902 540289
Parish Wardens	Keith Tomlinson	01902 673366
	John Anderson	01902 677666
Treasurer	John Anderson	01902 677666
Caretaker	Pam Pugh	07860 256535
Server / Verger	Len Millard	01902 676339
Junior Church	Barbara Price	01902 676591
Brownies	Heather Churm	01902 674709
Ladies' Society	Geraldine Baker	01902 674608
Men's Society	Roger Berry	01902 881374
Mothers' Union	Liz Williams	01902 672880
Noah's Ark	Linda Edwards	01902 672556
Parent & Toddler Group		
Rainbows	Liz Naylor	07827 629648
Web Editor	Martin Jones	01902 884461
Youth Group	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
Bell Ringer	Keith Williams	01902 672585
Organist	Martin Platts	07941 173252

St Andrew's Who's Who

Warden	Canon Jan Humphries	
Treasurer	Alan Turner	01902 670938
DCC secretary	Rosemary Reed	01902 679007
Little Angels baby & toddler group	Canon Jan Humphries	
Singing Angels	Claire Cox	07812 010108

Parish Prayers at 9.15am - All are Welcome

Tuesdays at St Andrew,

Wednesdays at St Peter and

Thursdays at All Saints.

Altar Flowers

Maureen Iddles, Cicely Thomas, Bill and Barbara Baker and Ann Round.

Funerals in July and August

1st July -	Irene Evans -	Gornal Wood
26th July -	Malcolm Nunn -	Gornal Wood
26th July -	Kenneth Ralph -	Gornal Wood
14th August -	Stanley Smith -	Gornal Wood
27th August -	Paul Butler -	All Saints
29th August -	John Wakefield -	All Saints

High Days & Holy Days for September

1 st Sept	Drithelm – vision of the after-life
1 st Sept	St Giles of Provence – helping those damaged by life
2 nd Sept	The New Guinea Martyrs of 1942
2 nd Sept	St William of Roskilde – standing up for social justice
3 rd Sept	St Gregory the Great – the man who saved the ‘angels’
5 th Sept	Laurence Giustiniani – the saint who knew how to help a beggar
6 th Sept	Allen Gardiner – founder - the South American Missionary Society
8 th Sept	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9 th Sept	St Peter Claver – compassion for slaves
11 th Sept	St Protus and St Hyacinth – victims of mindless violence
11 th Sept	St Deiniol of Bangor – bringing disagreeing bishops together
13 th Sept	St John Chrysostom – living a public faith
14 th Sept	Holy Cross Day
15 th Sept	St Adam of Caithness – the way NOT to tithe
16 th Sept	Ninian, Bishop of Galloway – Apostle of the Picts (Scotland)
16 th Sept	Cornelius – the saint who had mercy on sinning Christians
18 th Sept	St Joseph of Copertino – the awkward saint
20 th Sept	The Martyrs of Korea
21 st Sept	St Matthew
23 rd Sept	When the sun goes edgewise – and daytime equals night
24 th Sept	St Gerard Sagredo – church planting in the 11 th century
25 th Sept	St Ceolfrith (d 716) – baking and Bibles
27 th Sept	Vincent de Paul – devotion to the poor and oppressed
28 th Sept	St Lioba – a memorable woman
29 th Sept	Michael and All Angels
29 th Sept	Angels Unawares
29 th Sept	Enter all the angels, led by Michael

THE BEACON

If you are interested in having the magazine delivered to your home on a regular basis please contact:

Karen Evans: 01902 678056

The Beacon is published ten times a year and the cost for the year is £5. A larger typeface version of The Beacon can be provided on request.

Articles for the October magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

Friday 20th September

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

Do not send files in pdf format

WEBSITE: **www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk**

CHURCH OPENING



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

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

VESTRY HOUR

Vestry hour will take place on the first and third Sunday of the month for all enquires on weddings and baptisms from 12 noon to 1pm

Letter from the Dean of Worcester

Using social media responsibly

Social media have become a way of life for many people. And like any way of life, social media are an opportunity and a danger. Social media can do good and can cause harm. Using social media well is a craft that needs to be learnt.

The Church of England has recently put forward ten guidelines for the good and positive use of social media. While designed for those using church social media accounts, they are simple guidelines that we would all be the better for following.

Be safe. The safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults must be maintained.

Be respectful. Do not post or share content that is sexually explicit, inflammatory, hateful, abusive, threatening or otherwise disrespectful.

Be kind. Treat others how you would wish to be treated and assume the best in people. If you have a criticism or critique to make, consider not just *whether* you would say it in person, but the tone you would use.

Be honest. Don't mislead people about who you are.

Take responsibility. You are accountable for the things you do, say and write. Text and images shared can be public and permanent, even with privacy settings in place.

Be a good ambassador. Personal and professional life can easily become blurred online so think before you post.

Disagree well. Some conversations can be places of robust disagreement and it's important we apply our values in the way we express them.

Credit others. Respect copyright and always credit where it is due. Be careful not to release sensitive or confidential information and always question the source of any content you are considering amplifying.

Follow the rules. Abide by the terms and conditions of the various social media platforms themselves.

It would take very little effort on the part of any of us to stick to these. But a huge amount of unhappiness could be avoided, if we did. Some people would not be permanently damaged. Even some lives would be saved.

Peter Atkinson

Dean of Worcester

Why ‘healthy’ snacks are not so healthy at all

Three-quarters of toddlers are eating too much. Their parents are feeding them ‘healthy’ fruit-based snacks which are in reality three-quarters sugar.

A Public Health England (PHE) investigation has found that the market for baby ‘finger food’ such as dried fruit and oat bars, is rapidly expanding – we spent £100m on such products last year. But processed dried fruit products are high in sugar.

Parents who think they have found a good way to get their children to eat their greens are being deceived. One example given is of a broccoli, pear and peas pouch which contained seven per cent broccoli, 14 per cent peas and 79 per cent pear.

Another product which claimed to be ‘one of five a day’ and ‘packed with real fruit’ actually contained 68 grams of sugar per 100 grams.

If we were starting out on a journey we would not choose to start from here!!

‘Will you sweep away righteous with the wicked?’ asked Abraham in Genesis chapter 18 as he bargains for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Abraham bargains with God; will God save the city if there are 50 righteous people, then 45, then 40, 30, 20, 10 – 6 times Abraham negotiates with God - if this number of righteous people are found in Sodom and Gomorrah, God will not destroy the city.

When we look at the Church of England, the wider church, our own Diocese and our own parish, we can see that our numbers are dropping, and we could be forgiven for asking if God has forsaken us!

On Tuesday the 2nd July there was a meeting of the Worcester Diocesan Synod at St James Church, Welland, Malvern.

In his address to the Synod Bishop John confirmed the very serious financial situation in which we as a Diocese find ourselves with savings of at least 1 million pounds to be found from within the Diocese.

We are in ‘Choppy waters’ Bishop John said, outlining the wider context in which we find ourselves nationally including of course the uncertainty about Brexit and other situations.

He referred to Saint Peter and to Saint Thomas and how God has built His church on such frail people; he emphasised that we must go forward with hope – Christian Hope is the unique selling point of the Christian Church.

Hope has been described as love, stretched out into the future.

Bishop Graham has just moved to Norwich, but it was agreed at the synod meeting that the appointment of a new Bishop of Dudley should proceed, and it is hoped there may be interviews in September 2019 with an appointment in January 2020. Please pray for whoever this will be.

The 1 million overspend is being dealt with – but at a cost. The static nature of our finances in real terms across the Diocese means a decrease in income. The Diocese has decreased in church membership and giving by individuals has increased but these 2 things have balanced each other out.

It is planned that £550,000 should be saved over 5 years from central Diocesan costs; redundancies have already been made and people have lost their livelihoods.

It is planned that 1 million pounds should be saved from wider ministry costs in the parishes. This will be much slower than the Diocesan office savings.

£200,000 could be saved in Parsonages, (Clergy housing), but altogether it will mean a loss of at least 15 stipendiary posts, paid clergy; possibly more if other savings are not found e.g. perhaps another 3 posts if savings are not found with the Old Palace building. We have about 120 stipendiary clergy in the Diocese – that is a potential decrease of about 12.5% or more.

A group are looking at Parish reorganisation (called pastoral reorganisation) to try and deal with this massive problem.

Parishes may be merged – churches may be lost.

An optimistic financial scenario, mid-way financial scenario and a pessimistic financial scenario have been explored projected over the next 10 years.

The action being taken is based on the medium case scenario.

A review of the parish share system was agreed at the synod – it is hoped this may be done more fairly and without the current fluctuations.

In 2018 only 76% of parish share, that which was needed and which was asked for to run the parishes and diocesan office, was received and over 50% of parishes did not give all that was requested of them – that included Gornal and Sedgley; and only St Andrew out of our 3 churches paid that which was asked of them. This year all 3 of our churches are struggling to pay our parish share.

I know many of you give sacrificially and very generously – we will all need to look at how we may help.

There will be a new look at what is called Ministry Strategy – how Lay and Ordained people are deployed in the parishes, which hopefully in the future will help with the lower number of stipendiary clergy. It means of course that lay ministry will need to expand, and the possibility is of Licensed Lay Ministers becoming Ministers in Charge of Churches – this is happening in Birmingham Diocese already.

There was a long debate on the future of the Old Palace in Worcester which is owned by the Cathedral and rented and maintained by the Diocese.

Its future is seriously under question, and the financial future of the Cathedral, our Cathedral, is possibly in question with all that is up in the air at the moment.

In the mean time we move forward in the hope of Christ – it has been said that the ministry of lay people will need to be re-envisioned in line with the church's understanding of the priesthood of all believers (see 1 Peter 2.9); and ordained priests are likely to be more 'episcopal' in their role in the future, giving oversight across church communities.

At our vision day for the parish we re-expressed our priorities of prayer and study of the scriptures and of growing our work with children and young people and their families.

Our priority of prayer has never been more crucial.

What is our vision as a parish ?

At the parish vision day we explored things which we would like to 'characterise' our Parish. We would like our parish to be known to be:

Welcoming

Known for its care and empathy in the community

Known for friendly and understandable services

Known to be inviting – and to be intentional about sharing Jesus

Known for giving people hope through the love of Jesus

We would like a higher profile in our community – known in the community for who we are; followers of Jesus

Known for communicating our faith through love in action – we would like to be more intentional about our faith

Known for being inclusive – wherever a person comes from they will be welcome

We would like to grow in our love of God through our actions

We would like to be known as a lively and active church

Our Next priorities as a Parish?

Calling Young Disciples – Children and Young People and families

Prayer and study of the scriptures

Ready to engage with and serve our community

Devoted to growing as disciples offering time, talents and money to God – stewardship

Communication – being on board: the importance that everyone feels valued and those who appreciate traditional services should feel that they are valued

We want to have a place to invite our baptismal families and families from toddlers and other children's groups and activities, which is planned for them to feel welcome and able to take part.

The All Saints DCC agreed recently and the PCC support a plan that an all age Holy Communion service be held on the first Sunday of the month and this will start at Harvest, on the 6th of October.

We will all need to support this service if we are to grow as church and parish.

Our priority of prayer and study of the scriptures has never been more crucial. We must do this, if as St Paul urges us, we are to be rooted and built up in Jesus and established in the faith. And we must encourage each other in prayer.

We must look to Him, Jesus, in all things, trusting Him who is the head of every ruler and authority.

He forgives us our trespasses and he will not see his church destroyed but we do need to change if we are to grow again.

We are not to allow the rules of this world to rule us nor are we to be puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking.

We need to know who we are – the beloved of Christ and to go forward with Him.

We are to hold on to Jesus who is the head of the body, His church, you and me; it is Jesus who nourishes us and holds us together.

Our Lord Jesus' teaching on prayer is so clear in Luke 11 where He teaches us to pray!

We are to be persistent!

We are to ask, and it will be given to us; we are to search and we will find; we are to knock and God's door will be opened to us.

We are to ask for the `Holy Spirit and He will be given to us.

Fervent prayer is a must, it is not an option if we are to survive the problem's we are facing – but nothing is impossible for God.

With my love and prayers for you all,

Yours in Christ,

Guy Hewlett

Vicars Ponderings September 2019

Have you ever been on a retreat?

I have recently been on a retreat for a few days staying in a cottage in North West Lancashire, on the boarder of Cumbria right at the top of Morecombe bay.

As ministers in the church we are encouraged to take a yearly retreat as part of our spiritual discipline and wellbeing; but taking a retreat is not the sole domain of those who are ordained or in licensed ministry, it is good practice and encouraged for all Christians.

So what is a retreat?

The Christian retreat can be defined in the simplest of terms as a definite time (from a few hours in length to a month or longer) spent away from one's normal life for the purpose of reconnecting, usually in prayer, with God.

Although the practice of leaving one's everyday life to connect on a deeper level with God, be that in the desert (as with the Desert Fathers),

or in a monastery, is as old as Christianity itself, the practice of spending a specific time away with God is a more modern phenomenon, dating from the 1520s and St. Ignatius of Loyola's composition of the Spiritual Exercises. Taking time out in prayer is also following the example of Jesus' own ministry, as seen in the Gospels.

My own practice is to try and take a retreat once a year, which is usually Monday to Friday, last year I spent a week at St Bueno's in North Wales, on an individual guided silent retreat. Once a day you will meet with a spiritual guide, talking about how you are getting on, the challenges you may face, and to ask, often, some challenging questions about your spiritual life. They will also offer Bible readings and exercises that you might find helpful during the following 24 hours, until you meet your guide again.

This year my retreat was self-guided, with Bramble being my companion! I had visited the area before, and found it a place where I could reconnect with God. Before moving to Gornal and Sedgley, I spent 6 years in the North East, at college and curacy, and was blessed by being so close to the coast, and being just over an hour away from Bamburgh, which I find is a thin place between heaven and earth. Unfortunately, Bamburgh is a bit far away now, and finding places nearer, where I get that same sense, is often a challenge. But being near the sea, I always feel blessed, and standing on the shore line, at the top of Morecombe Bay when the sea is out, you get a real sense of the awesomeness of God's creation.

Some people find that same sense in other places such as on a top of a mountain, sitting in silence in a beautiful church, or cathedral. Some people find that they reconnect with God through walking, listening to music, a Christian Conference or Christian worship event; we are all unique, and how we connect with God is part of that uniqueness.

My retreat this year has been a real blessing to me, within the business of ministry, taking time out to reconnect with God through His creation, taking walks in this beautiful part of the country, reading and praying.

How do you reconnect with God in the hustle and bustle of life?

If you want to know more about retreats and retreat resources please speak to Catherine or Guy

Blessings

Catherine

Team Vicar

Slight Change on the First Sunday of the Month at All Saints

The All Saints DCC agreed recently, as has the PCC, to support a plan for the 1st Sunday of the month to be a service of Holy Communion where all ages will be able to worship together. The service will start on the first Sunday of the month on the 6th of October which will be our Harvest service celebration.

We will call the service ‘Worship Together’, with Holy Communion. The service is being planned to be encouraging and welcoming to us all – people very established in the church and people exploring their faith in God and who God is. We hope the service will really be for everyone to worship God together.

We will invite baptismal families to this service for their welcome to church and we hope that we will all feel confident to invite and encourage our own families and friends to come along as well.

If all goes well we hope that similar services may happen across the parish.

Please pray for and support this service as we seek to grow as church and parish.

Guy Hewlett

All Together as Kingdom People

Sam Setchell

Will your parish be coming along to the All Together as Kingdom People day?

On Saturday 28 September, people from across the Diocese will come together for All Together as Kingdom People - a day to be inspired, encouraged and equipped to grow as Kingdom People.

This year we will be joined by the Bishop of Liverpool, Paul Bayes, who will host a workshop on evangelism and will address us in our closing worship. There will also be plenty of opportunities through formal and informal workshops to come away with new ideas to reinvigorate your worship, prayer ministry or to help make running your parish easier.

There will be sessions suitable for families to attend together along with a climbing wall and sports cage completely free of charge, as well as practical prayer stations and a chance to be involved in a 'Kingdom Arts' project.

Bishop John said: "Our last All Together Day in 2015 was a great success with people gathering from right across the Diocese. This is another fantastic opportunity to come together to be inspired by new ideas to use in your own parish as well as share in worship and food together."

There is a timetable of workshops and more information on the day on the diocesan website: <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/all-together/>

Sit where you like

Whilst serving as church usher, I was carrying out our tradition of escorting parishioners to their seats before the service began. After I returned to the entrance of the sanctuary to escort the next party, I greeted two strangers and asked where they would like to sit. Looking confused, the young man smiled and said, "Non-smoking, please."



Children's Society Autumn Fayre

This is to remind our many supporters that the annual Children's Society Autumn Fayre will be held in All Saints' Church Hall on

**Saturday 12th October 2019
commencing at 10.30 a.m.**

For many years our Fayre has been successful due to support from the six local Anglican churches represented by the Committee. We would obviously love to see you again this year for coffee, lunch or just for a browse and chat.

All Saints' will again run the tombola, so we need as many gifts as possible. We would also be most grateful if people can make cakes for sale on the appropriate stall.

St. Andrew's Singing Angels

Will again be performing for us this year

Ivy Slater, Anne Hart and Margaret Probin already have Raffle Tickets for sale and, as usual, will have Christmas Cards available at the Fayre.

Anne

Stewardship

Giving for life, living generously

Many of you will be aware that each of our three churches is challenged financially at this time. Many are already giving generously but also sacrificially; however, it is good for all of us to pause and reflect on all that God has given to us as individuals and the church, and to reflect also whether we as individuals are truly giving for life and living generously.

Generous giving leads us to respond spontaneously to the needs we encounter. But there is more to giving than responding to need.

Generous giving requires us to give regularly in a committed way to our church and the cause God has placed in our hearts. But there is more to giving, even than giving to our church and other charities.

Generous giving responds to a generous God. Psalm 141 speaks of God's extravagant generosity. As we acknowledge God's abundant blessing and provision, we give. First of all we give thanks but then we are called to pass on God's blessing to others.

Living generously requires abundant love; love for God, love for neighbour, love for God's work and love for family. Love that flows over into generous, open handed giving of time, money, hospitality, talents and our very selves.

In the light of this we are planning a stewardship campaign which includes a sermon series, concluding with a gift day where we will have the opportunity to review and renew our personal giving to the work of the church.

Below outlines the service dates with the key readings.

29th Sept Joint Service (All Saints), where we will also authorise our new Authorised Lay Ministers - Luke 14:25-33

6th Oct Harvest - Luke 15:1-10

13th Oct - Luke 16:1-13

20th Oct - Luke 16:19-31

27th Oct – Luke 17:5-10

Concluding with a gift day on 2nd Nov (10:00-12:00) – to bring planned giving offerings to each church.

Guy, Catherine, Jan

Theology degrees at risk

The number of students opting to do theology and religious studies at university has almost halved in just six years.

More than 14,000 were enrolled in 2011-12, but that fell to 7,585 by 2017-18, putting the degrees at some risk of disappearing from university curriculums.

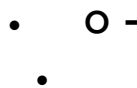
Prof Diarmaid MacCulloch, an expert in church history at the University of Oxford, described the decline as ‘alarming’. “I am extremely concerned. Teachers are not directing people in this important direction and not seeing the value in theology and religious studies.”

MOTHERS' UNION

We were delighted to invite Joan Sullivan's nephew, Phil, and his wife, Cath, to our evening meeting in July, down at St Andrew's, The Straits, where they told us of God's call to serve Him at a Mission Hospital in Zambia. Phil, an engineer, worked with local people to install a new water supply and trained them in electrics, plumbing and maintenance of existing equipment in the hospital. They also built a guest block, for those who came with patients. His wife Cath, a consultant surgeon, performed operations in the hospital. Patients would come, from miles around, just turning up – no appointment needed! They would be assessed and operated on the next day! Phil and Cath and their two young boys are returning to Zambia, where they will pursue their calling in discipleship and practical skills training, with Foundation Zambia. It was a privilege to share Phil and Cath's journey of faith, that led them to do this inspiring work.

A lovely afternoon was spent at our Cream Tea in July.

Everyone enjoyed the tea, all of which was provided by the committee – plus Jan's Mum's delicious scones. We raised £400 which was split between All Saints' and St Andrew's Churches and Mothers' Union. The £134 for Mothers' Union has been sent to the 'Summer of Hope' appeal. This project enables life-changing livelihoods and literacy skills empowering women to find their voices, or inspiring faith and action in isolated communities, here and abroad. The Diocese of Worcester Mothers' Union Trustees have again agreed to match fund branch donations for this appeal and thus £268 has been sent to the 'Summer of Hope' appeal.



The Mary Sumner Day service at Holy Trinity, Amblecote was led by Revd. Judith Oliver, who gave an excellent address about our founder Mary Sumner. The service was followed by a buffet lunch. We were, as always, made most welcome and it was enjoyable to share worship, and fellowship over lunch with members from other branches. Sadly there were only three of us from All Saints' and St. Andrew's.

Dates

3 rd Sept	2.30pm	It's a Wonderful World, Joyce Bush There will be a Bring & Buy following the talk
7 th Sept	2.30pm	Diocesan Festival, All Saints' Church, Bromsgrove Archdeacon of Dudley, Nikki Groarke will be preaching
24 th Sept	7.30pm	Hong Kong to Russia, Alan Turner

Hopes for the Lambeth Conference 2020

The Lambeth Conference, which begins next summer, must proclaim that Anglicans offer themselves as 'bridge-builders' to a world which needs peace and reconciliation.

So says the Archbishop of Cape Town, Dr Thabo Makgoba, who chairs the conference's design group. "We are there for peace, to address some of the social needs. We are there, in our brokenness, to look at growth – to rebuild trust in the world."

The theme of next summer's event is: 'God's Church for God's World.' Bishops from every Province in the Anglican Communion will meet in Canterbury for a week of Bible studies, keynote speeches, seminars and discussions.

The Bishop of Dallas, the Rt Revd George Sumner, also a member of the design group, said that Lambeth 2020 is a 'remarkable opportunity to realise we inherit something which is ancient, which we want to pass on to our spiritual children and grandchildren, and that we share that with this amazing, fragile, beautiful communion of brother and sister Churches throughout the world.'

Lambeth 2020 is the first such conference since the fractious conference of 2008, which was dominated by division over gay bishops. The organisers of 2020 will have their work cut out for them, as the lead-up has already been overshadowed by more rows and threats of walk-outs.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER



**10am – 12noon
at
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH**

Please come and support this worthy cause

Thank You

Ladies Society

We're all going on a summer holiday

In July Anne Clarke came to talk to us again and delivered another amusing and entertaining talk, this time it was about holidays. We started, of course, by singing the Cliff Richard hit from the film Summer Holiday! Anne talked about the history of holidays – originally holy days which would be celebrated on the village green. She pointed out important dates in the development of what we now regard as our holiday entitlement: the 1871 Bank Holiday Act which stated that we should expect to have bank holidays as a day off from work; the addition of New Year's Day as a Bank Holiday in 1974; and the introduction of May Day in 1978. We were then invited to take part in a quiz about special Bank Holidays: VE Day in 1945; the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer in 1981; Millennium Eve in 1999; and the Diamond Jubilee in 2012 were just some of those mentioned.

Anne explained how holidays had changed from something which only the wealthy enjoyed (taking part in The Grand Tour) to seaside holidays for everyone which were made possible by the 1844 Railway Act, enabling people on modest incomes to travel to the coast.

A rendition of "I do like to be beside the seaside" was followed by reminiscences of fish and chips, candy floss, fairground rock, Punch and Judy and a walk along the pier.

To conclude Anne talked about the growth of holidays abroad and the package holiday and she entertained us by reciting "The Lion and Albert". Thank you, Anne, for another enjoyable evening.

We meet again in September when it will be our AGM. I look forward to seeing you there.

Karen Evans



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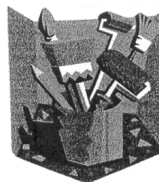
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Beware the hidden extra in getting a tattoo

One in five people who get tattoos, cosmetic piercings, acupuncture or electrolysis also get something they did not bargain on: an infection. The Royal Society for Public Health is now calling for an overhaul of safety standards, as it warns that the fashion is putting lives at risk. For although most infections are burning and swelling, some go on to cause sepsis, which can be fatal.

There is no standard legal infection control requirement across the UK for anyone offering tattoos, piercings or other treatments that compromise the skin barrier. One in five adults in Britain now have a tattoo.

Live 60s/70s Tribute Night

featuring

The McKays

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8.00pm to 10.30pm
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Money

One day a small boy started pulling handfuls of money out of his pockets – several notes as well as many coins. Bewildered, his mother asked, “Where on earth did you get all that money?”

“At church, of course,” the boy replied, surprised. “They have bowls of it there.”

Be. Spoilt

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My dear Nephew Darren

Your withering comments, saying that our choir robes, were ‘surplice’ to requirements did not go down well at last week’s practice. I will concede that Mr Baddeley’s robes smell somewhat kippered and are laced with burns – but you can expect little less from 40 years of enjoying a final cigarette behind a gravestone before the start of Matins.

Certainly, Mr Timmin’s surplice has a strange series of red and blue polka dots, but that is only because he uses his time in the choir stalls, when not singing, to catch up on marking his pupils’ essays. The red gash on Miss Thripp’s surplice may look as if the choirmaster has just stabbed her, but it was only a jam doughnut she ate, just before that wedding five years ago.

Our robes are steeped in history – they have seen their way through the death of Queen Victoria, the relief of Mafeking, and two World Wars. When one morning Admiral Flagg developed an ostentatious cough, I gave him a cough sweet from the pocket of my own cassock. He later commented that it had a strange taste. Not surprising – it had been in the pocket when I was given the cassock 50 years ago from Canon Ball’s widow after he died.

In an attempt to improve the look of the surplices, Mrs Wigg offered to starch them all. Unfortunately, her enthusiasm is only surpassed by her ineptitude. She worked on the principle that if one packet of starch was good, ten would be better. When the choir arrived the following Sunday, they found twenty surplices standing round the vestry floor looking like a circle of tents at Scout camp.

Once the choir had struggled into them, they had to process up the aisle in single file, as they were all about 6 feet wide. The choir stood rigidly throughout the Service, knowing that any rapid movement risked severing a major artery.

But our style of choir dress has one advantage which yours can never equal. Within our choristers' voluminous robes, there is ample space for peppermints, packs of cards, the Sunday newspapers and balls of wool and knitting needles. Your music group in their jeans and tee-shirts must feel utterly bereft during the sermon.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Where now?

A teacher was finishing up a lesson on the joys of discovery and the importance of curiosity. "Where would we be today," she asked, "if no one had ever been curious?"

There was a pause, and then one child ventured: "In the garden of Eden?"



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SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

September 2019

Sunday 1st September - All Saints - 8.00am - Revd Guy Hewlett
10.30am - Holy Communion - Revd Guy Hewlett
6.30pm - Book of Common Prayer - Evensong - Revd Catherine Mitchell
St Andrew - 9.30am - Family Worship - Canon Jan Humphries
St Peter - 10.30am - Holy Communion - Revd Catherine Mitchell

Wednesday 4th September - 10am - St Peter - Revd Catherine Mitchell

Sunday 8th September - All Saints - 8.00am - Revd Catherine Mitchell
10.30am - Morning Prayer - Suzanne Bradley
6.30pm - Book of Common Prayer - Evensong - Revd Catherine Mitchell
St Andrew - 9.30am - Holy Communion - Revd Catherine Mitchell
St Peter - 10.30am - Holy Communion - Revd James Makepeace

Wednesday 11th September - 10am - St Peter - Revd Catherine Mitchell

Sunday 15th September - All Saints - 8.00am - Revd Catherine Mitchell
10.30am - Holy Communion - Canon Judith Oliver
6.30pm - Worcester Cathedral- ALM Service - There will be no Evensong at All Saints to allow people to attend the Worcester Cathedral Service.

St Andrew - 9.30am - Family Worship - Canon Jan Humphries
St Peter - 10.30am - Holy Communion - Revd Catherine Mitchell

Wednesday 18th September - 10am - St Peter - Revd Guy Hewlett

Sunday 22nd September - All Saints - 8.00am - Revd Guy Hewlett
10.30am - Holy Communion - Canon Judith Oliver
6.30pm - Book of Common Prayer - Holy Communion - Revd Guy Hewlett
St Andrew - 9.30am - Revd Guy Hewlett
St Peter - 10.30am - Open the Book - Suzanne Bradley

Wednesday 25th September - 10am - St Peter - Revd Guy Hewlett

Sunday 29th September - All Saints - 8.00am - Revd Guy Hewlett
10.30am - Team and ALM Service - Revd Guy Hewlett
6.30pm - Healing Service - Revd Guy Hewlett