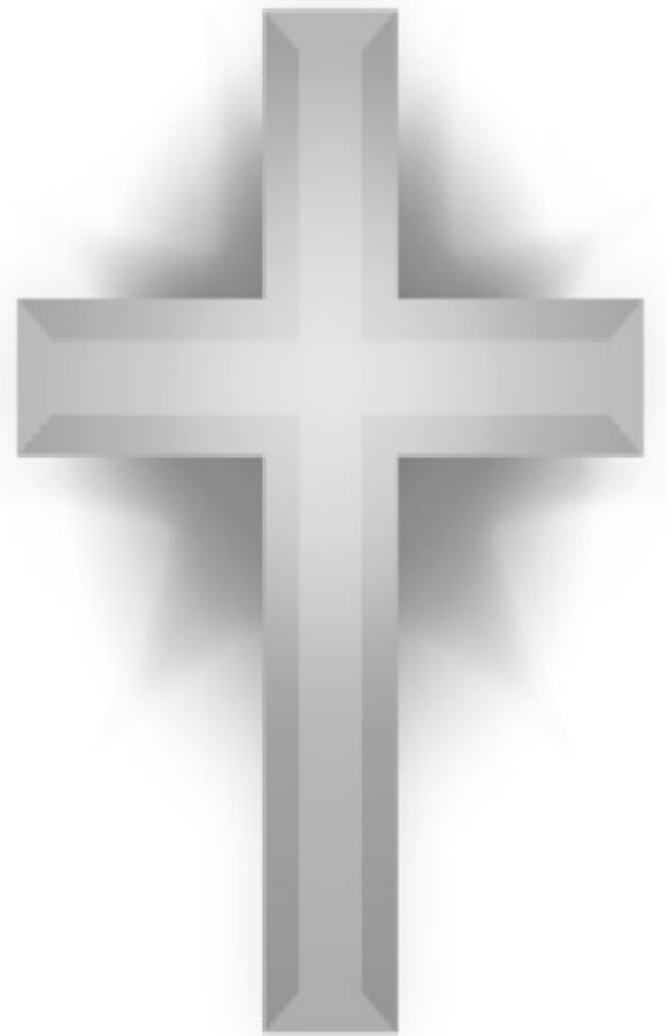
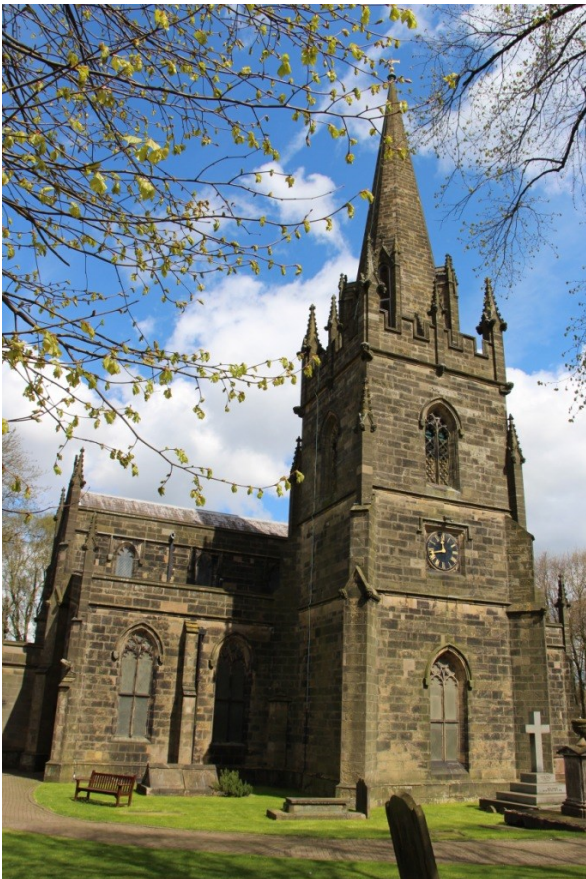


# THE BEACON

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

Registered Charity Number 1179471



Kingdom People  
love • compassion • justice • freedom

50p

OCTOBER 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

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### **Parish Prayers at 9.15am - All are Welcome**

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Tuesdays at St Andrew,

Wednesdays at St Peter and

Thursdays at All Saints.

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### **Altar Flowers**

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### **Funerals in August and September**

29th August - John Wakefield - All Saints

3rd September - Tony Hale - Gornal Wood

6th September - Raymond Kinsell - Gornal Wood

11th September - Edna Prophet - Gornal Wood

13th September - Doris Bowater - Gornal Wood

19th September - Gerald Parkhurst - Gornal Wood

24th September - Alwyne Fletcher - Gornal Wood

26th September - Brian Dawes - Gornal Wood

# High Days & Holy Days for September

- 1 Anthony Ashley-Cooper, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Shaftesbury – the Poor Man's Earl
- 1 Remigius
- 1 Theresa of Lisieux
- 2 Your Guardian Angel
- 3 Hewald the Black and Hewald the White
- 4 St Francis – and the Life of Simplicity
- 4 St Francis of Assisi
- 6 William Tyndale, Bible translator and Reformation martyr
- 8 Demetrius of Sirmium
- 9 Luis Bertran (1526-81)
- 9 Denys of Paris
- 10 Francis Borgia
- \*NEW 10 Thomas Traherne, poet and lover of nature
- 13 Edward the Confessor
- 14 Donation
- 18 Thank you, Dr Luke!
- 18 St Luke the Evangelist
- 22 Donatus
- 24 Felix of Thibiuca
- 26 Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, scholar, 899
- 27 Odran of Iona
- 28 Simon and Jude
- 30 Alphonsus Rodriguez
- 31 All Hallows' Eve

# THE BEACON

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

**Karen Evans: 01902 678056**

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Articles for the November magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

**Friday 25th October**

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

Do not send files in pdf format

WEBSITE: [www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk](http://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 Archdeacon of Dudley**

Over the summer I read the **Good Childhood Report 2019** published by The Children's Society, and was sad, but not surprised, to learn that children and young people have become increasingly unhappy as childhood becomes ever more complex. The society's research shows that many children are unhappy with their friendships and their appearance, and are concerned about wider issues like school culture, the experiences of those with low or strained family finances, and whether or not some children actually feel safe during the school day. Too many children are struggling with their lives now, and large numbers are also anxious about their future. Large proportions of children are worried about everything from money and getting good grades at school, to wider issues like crime and the environment.

It is so important that we keep reminding ourselves and each other that working with children and young people is one of our strategic priorities, and that as part of our Kingdom People vision we are

**dedicated to helping children and young people to belong and be nurtured in faith**

We can all play a part in this. Even if we don't have many children in our church, most of us will have contact with children in our family and friendship groups. How can we better mentor them, share faith with them, instil confidence in them and communicate their inherent value to them? How can we help to ease their unhappiness? Perhaps by showing unconditional love, and spending quality time with them; certainly by committing to pray for them.

Mark Russell, Canon of Worcester Cathedral and new Chief Executive of the Children's Society, said in his introduction to the report, "How can we enable children to thrive not just survive. How do we solve problems like rising mental ill-health, millions living in poverty and the scandal of far too many young lives being lost to knife crime and exploitation? We must

start by listening to young people. I mean REALLY listening. We need to stop side-lining young people and harness their enthusiasm and radical energy for change.”

As a new school year gets underway, let's commit afresh to helping the children of the Diocese of Worcester to belong and be nurtured in faith. Let's pray for our church schools, all who work with children in paid or voluntary roles, and the Mission Enablers supporting churches as part of our *Calling Young Disciples* project, and let's listen to the children and young people we know and harness their enthusiasm and energy for change, that their future might be full of hope, and our lives enriched by the part they play.

**Nikki Groarke**

Archdeacon of Dudley

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## **Ladies Society – Annual General Meeting**

Our September meeting began with the usual well-managed AGM led by Geraldine.

Geraldine reviewed the diverse range of subjects covered in our meetings this year: a talk by the Blood Bikes charity, to which we donated £250; the fascinating talk by Barbara Price about The Great War; two entertaining talks by Anne Clarke; a quiz; an informative talk by John Anderson about our charity for this year, the Church Hall fund, to which we donated £300; a visit to see Sister Act at The Dormston theatre; and entertaining talks by Mary Zielonka, Terry Church and Debbie Castle. The formal part of the evening was followed by an opportunity to chat and catch up whilst enjoying cheese and wine. Many thanks to those who helped to prepare and serve the food.

We currently have 35 members but would welcome many more. We meet on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm and look forward to seeing everyone in October.

**Karen Evans**

# Christians now under threat in 143 countries

Christians face harassment in 143 countries, according to major new research. The latest Annual Pew Report uncovers a record increase in restrictions on religion imposed by many governments around the world. It also finds violence and harassment against religious groups are on the rise.

Release International, which supports persecuted Christians around the world, has welcomed the report, but adds that the Pew Report has omitted North Korea, and also that it is behind the times on China where persecution is intensifying.

‘The report reinforces the excellent new review of Christian persecution by the Bishop of Truro which has now been accepted by the government,’ says Paul Robinson of Release International. ‘Release also welcomes this latest Pew report, but the sheer breadth of their investigation means it is behind the times. From our own findings, we would say that insufficient emphasis is placed on the growing restrictions in China and the severe persecution of Christians in North Korea.’

The Bishop of Truro’s Review for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) found that Christians were the most persecuted religious group in the world today. In contrast, the annual Pew Report is wider in its focus, looking at restrictions on all religions.

It states: ‘Religious restrictions have been rising around the world for the past decade.’ 52 governments, including China, Indonesia and Russia, are now imposing high or very high levels of restrictions on religion.

## CHINA

The Pew Report notes that by 2017 the Chinese government had ‘ramped up’ efforts to arrest and deport Christian missionaries. Also that China is restricting the number of religious groups who can register with the government to hold worship services.



Release International adds: 'But since 2017, there have been increasing reports that even registered Chinese Christian churches are being shut down by the government.'

## ISLAM

The Pew Report states that since 2015, Islam has been the most common state religion around the world. In the Middle East and North Africa, most governments favour Islam over other faiths.

It is here where growing numbers of countries are restricting religion. According to the Pew Report: 'The number of countries [in the region] where people experience the highest level of hostility towards religion has risen by almost 50 per cent.'

The survey of 198 countries also finds religious restrictions and violence are spreading to Europe. It cites a case in the United Kingdom in 2016, where a Sunni Muslim man killed an Ahmadi Muslim shopkeeper because he had 'disrespected the Prophet Mohammed'.

Religious terrorism is growing in Europe and the Middle East and North Africa. According to the Report: 'The Middle East and North Africa has seen the highest levels of religious violence by organised groups.'

That violence has spread from just four countries in 2007 to 11 of the 20 countries in the region by the end of the reporting period in 2017. Organised groups spreading religious violence include Isis, Al Qaeda, the Taliban and Hamas.

Among the most populous countries in the world, Egypt, India, Russia, Pakistan and Indonesia have the highest restrictions on religion, according to the report.

Another region to experience 'a sharp rise in government laws and policies restricting religious freedom' is Sub-Saharan Africa.

The report singles out Nigeria as a country with one of the largest increases in religious violence by organised groups since 2007.

In Central Asia, Turkmenistan continues to deny visas to foreigners suspected of missionary work. Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan have all imposed restrictions on Christian literature.

And in the Asia-Pacific region, according to the Report, 86 per cent of countries' governments were found to be intimidating religious groups in the region.

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## **There's nothing like a natural disaster to wake people up to their need for God.**

People who live in an area that suffers from natural disasters are 7.6 times more likely to be religious than people who live in areas without natural disasters.

Such was the finding of a recent report from the University of Copenhagen, published in *The Economic Journal*.

Dr Jeanet Bentzen explained that by using natural disasters as a determinant of random and adverse life events, she had found 'that individuals across the globe become more religious when hit by earthquakes, particularly individuals in districts that are otherwise rarely hit. The effect of any earthquake lasts six to 12 years, but a residual impact remains, and is transmitted across generations.'

For example, she found that church membership in the US increased by 50 per cent in states hit by massive earthquakes in 1811 and 1812, compared with one per cent in other states. Likewise, in Christchurch, after the 2011 earthquake, more people converted than in the rest of New Zealand.

'People are more religious in areas with a high risk of earthquakes or tsunamis – but even more so if the risk of both disasters is high.' And for a volcano to scare you towards God, you need to be within 1000 kilometres of danger.

Storms and hurricanes, on the other hand, do not cause an increase in religiosity. Dr Bentzen accounts for this by the fact that weather systems can be predicted

# MOTHERS' UNION

At our first meeting back after the summer we were pleased to welcome Joyce Bush. Her talk, entitled 'What a Wonderful World', looked at the song made famous by Louis Armstrong. After singing it through Joyce looked at each phrase in detail. The beauty of our 'wonderful world' which we so often take for granted and the amazing 'colours of the rainbow' – a sign of hope. The 'smile on the faces of people going by'. The cry of a baby and the child growing up to 'learn much more than I'll ever know'. The talk was interspersed with other songs we sang, such as 'Somewhere over the Rainbow', 'When you're Smiling', 'Bring me Sunshine' and 'A New Commandment'. 'What a Wonderful World' has always been one of my favourite songs, partly because my Dad was a fan of Louis Armstrong but also because the words say it all. When you have a spare moment read through the words of the song and reflect on the fact that we truly do have a 'Wonderful World' created by a living God.

The Diocesan Festival was held at All Saints', Bromsgrove and led by Revd Canon Stephen Buckley. The Mothers' Union theme for 2019 of 'Listen, observe, act – in step with God' was the inspiration for the service. Archdeacon Nikki Groarke gave an excellent address about the work of the Mothers' Union worldwide – saying the strapline for the organisation should be 'Cake with a Mission'. There was a good contingent of members from All Saints' and St Andrew's many of whom could be found serving the tea and coffee after the service! Thanks to Revd Catherine for joining us – it was nice to have you there.

Congratulations to Frances and John Rollason who have celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary and Maureen and David Matthews their Silver Wedding Anniversary.

## Dates:

1<sup>st</sup> October 2.15pm Communion followed by Midland Freewheelers  
Please note this meeting is at St Andrew's, The Straits

15<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm 'From Cleaner to Canon' - Canon Jan Humphries  
All are welcome at our meetings you do not have to be a Mothers' Union member.

**Liz Williams**

## Medicine for the heart

Over 80 years ago I sat next to my mother at a pantomime – ‘Cinderella’, I think. It was alright, if a bit too full of dancing for my taste. But suddenly we were in a kitchen where the royal supper was being prepared. And wonderfully and gloriously, everything went wrong. Food took to the air, custard pies ended up on heads and faces. Apparently, I laughed so much that I fell off my seat. I had encountered the magic of comedy; the sheer joy of laughter. What we call a ‘sense of humour’ is a priceless and unique gift of our creator to the human race.

The Bible tells us to ‘weep with those who weep’, true – but also to laugh with those who laugh. In modern times that has often meant an experience shared with millions of others on radio or TV.

This month marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first broadcast of Monty Python’s ‘Flying Circus’ which was a landmark event in broadcasting comedy. It wasn’t situation comedy like ‘Dad’s Army’ or ‘Are You Being Served.’ Monty Python was a true child of the 1960s, a confident, cheeky reflection of contemporary society. No, it wasn’t ‘Dad’s Army’ but it was just as funny in its own way.

Like all of God’s gifts, a sense of humour can be misused. Satire can be cruel and negative. Just as the laughter of seven-year-olds in the playground teasing a boy they claim has got, say, big ears.

Humour should be about or with, but never *at* people.

---

## Family Bible surprise

A little boy was fascinated as he fingered through the pages of the old family Bible. Suddenly, an old leaf that had been pressed between the pages fluttered out. “Mum, come quick!” he cried. “I think I just found Adam’s underwear!”

# **All things come from You, and of Your own do we ... not give back much!**

Jesus taught a great deal about money and its dangers. Most of His parables concerned money in one form or another. He used the word 'Mammon' to describe a false financial god, saying "You can't serve God and Mammon."

*So, a right attitude to money is essential for Christians.*

Until we are released from the straitjacket of putting money before God, that blocked soul-artery will impede our way to God.

Once we are liberated from the control money has over us, we can be lavish in our giving – with a sense of exuberance. St Paul puts it like this: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

St Paul spent ten years raising funds for the impoverished Church in Jerusalem where there was a serious famine. The little and very poor Church in Macedonia gave way beyond their comfort zone. The relatively wealthy Church in Corinth gave little by comparison. Paul contrasts them. Miserable Corinthians; joyful Macedonians.

*Giving is fun.*

Christian giving becomes something that we share privately with Jesus. In Matthew Jesus taught that when we give, we should not let even our left hand know what our right hand is doing.

God is generous to us, so when we are generous, we share a secret with Him. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich."

*So – giving money away makes you happy!*

Giving to God is giving back what He has already given to us. It's not the quantity we give, it's the percentage of what we have. A right attitude to money is vital for Christians.

## **Asthma danger for children**

Children are up to four times more likely to have an asthma attack when they return to school.

A recent study from Public Health England has cited a combination of stress, changes in the weather, air pollution and an increase in circulating viruses as the reason why many schoolchildren develop respiratory problems as the term gets underway.

One doctor stressed: “Some children find the start of the new school term an anxious time, which could set off an attack. So, it is crucial that schools are aware of the pupils who have asthma, and that there are adequate steps in place to support them.”

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## **You may love him, but....!**

Young women are less and less likely to share their finances with their ‘significant other’. A recent survey has found that nearly half of women aged below 34 prefer financial independence.

As one accountant explained: ‘With women increasingly entering marriage later in life, after years of earning their own income and controlling their own finances, it’s unsurprising that many are turning their back on a ‘what’s mine is yours’ approach.

Meanwhile, as women tend to outlive men, more than 60 per cent of the UK’s wealth is expected to be in the hands of women by 2025.

The study was carried out by Netwealth.

## When insults had class

“He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire.” – *Winston Churchill (about another MP)*

“Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I’ll waste no time reading it.” – *Moses Hadas*

“He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.” – *Oscar Wilde*

“I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend... if you have one.” – *George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill*. “Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one.” – *Winston Churchill, in response*.

“I feel so miserable; it’s almost like having you here.” – *Stephen Bishop*

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We have been running a Fair Trade stall at All Saints since 2008, and expanded to make Sedgley a Fair Trade town.

The Sedgley Fairtrade Initiative has now been running for 5 years. Sedgley is a Fairtrade town, but we really need some more help and support to keep our organisation going, and to advertise Fairtrade in our churches, shops and the community.

Fair trade is so important for the producers - not just of the Third World, but ours nearer home as well. If you feel you could support us in any way - at stalls, on the committee, or in Fair Trade fortnight please do contact us.

Cicely Thomas 01902 677724 or Clunis Chesworth 01902 883995

## Flyers overhead

There are up to 10,000 different kinds of birds in the world, and with about 530 different kinds in Israel alone, no wonder birds get a frequent mention in the Bible.

Noah released a dove from the ark to look for dry ground. A stork, an ostrich and an eagle are mentioned in Job. Quails were food for the Israelites in the desert. Elijah was fed by ravens. Proverbs refers to sparrows chirping on rooftops. Peter denied Jesus before the cock crowed. A dove descending is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The flight of the eagle reminds us of freedom and the renewal of strength. The psalmist uses wings as a symbol for the protection of God in times of trouble. Isaiah likens a bird hovering over its nest, to protect its young, to describe God's protection of Jerusalem. Jesus yearned to gather the people of Jerusalem to Him as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.

Jesus also compared us with sparrows: *“For only a penny you can buy two sparrows, yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father’s consent...so do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows!”* (Matt 10:29-30)

For Jesus encourages us to know that each one of us is significant to God. He knows us personally, and, in His sight, we are precious and of great value. Let's raise our eyes heavenward and when we see all the birds flying overhead this autumn, let's give thanks to God. Like them, we can be confident, for we are always in His loving care.

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## Funeral

While walking through the churchyard one day, our minister came across his six-year-old son burying a dead sparrow. With sonorous dignity the son was using the prayer that he thought his father always said: “Glory be unto the Faaather, and unto the Sonnn, and into the hole he goooes.”





# **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**

# What about Halloween?

It's that time of year when the shops are full of pumpkins and youngsters are knocking on our doors to 'trick or treat'. How should Christians respond to Halloween? Is it simply a fun festival for the children or does it have a dark side that we should avoid?

Firstly, Christians should not respond to Halloween with *superstition*. The Bible reminds us that evil is a real force at work in our world, as '*the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour*' (1 Peter 5:8). We shouldn't underestimate his ability to blind the minds of unbelievers to the reality of spiritual warfare. (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Secondly, we can respond with *confidence*. While people are often fearful of witches, ghosts, and evil spirits, we mustn't forget that God is in control, not Satan. Jesus has secured the victory over sin and evil on the cross: '*having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*' (Colossians 2:15).

Finally, we can also offer *hope*. '*Christ died and returned to life so that He might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*' (Romans 14:9). Halloween is an opportunity to share the hope of the gospel. For example, if we offer sweets to children calling to trick and treat, we might include information about the Christian faith or church. Or we could organise an alternative *Light Party*, celebrating Jesus as the light of the world.

C .S. Lewis provides a helpful balance for us: '*There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall into about devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.*' (*The Screwtape Letters*).

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## The sermon

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mummy, if we give him some money now, will he let us go?"

# THANK YOU !

Re the late JOHN WAKEFIELD

Anne, Matt and Angie thank everyone for their cards and messages of condolence on the loss of their beloved husband and father. It has been of great comfort to feel the care of so many and to know the deep respect for John.

Thanks to all who donated to Dudley Kidney Patients Association, a grand total of £505 was raised.

May God bless you all.

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## **Bugs everywhere you touch**

This is the kind of story which makes you want to put gloves on. It seems that 'disturbing' levels of antibiotic-resistant superbugs have been found on cash machines and escalator rails, not to mention ticket machines, soap dispensers, door handles, armrests and lavatory seats. There were other infected surfaces in Tube stations, shopping centres, hospitals, and public washrooms.

Researchers from the University of East London found that of the many surfaces which they swabbed, nearly half had bacteria which showed resistance to two or more antibiotics, including penicillin and erythromycin. As one researcher said, it was "disturbing" that such general public areas can be in fact "reservoirs for multi-drug-resistant bacteria."

The findings were published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

## Nietzsche – the man for whom ‘God is dead’

The German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche was born 175 years ago, on 15th October 1844, near Leipzig, where his father was a Lutheran minister. His father died five years later, but young Friedrich had a brilliant school and university career.

He is perhaps known best for his paradoxical statement that “God is dead”, and his suggestion that traditional Christian belief and its attendant ideas of morality were “unbelievable”. One of his arguments was that the “brimstone, hellfire, and damnation diatribe” in Christian letters and sermons was incompatible with a religion of love and forgiveness. His writing was not so much logical as aphoristic – even poetic. He said: “I approach deep problems like cold baths: quickly into them and quickly out again.”

His novel *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* was used by Richard Strauss to create a tone poem of the same name, the fanfare of which was employed to stunning effect in the 1968 film *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Nietzsche’s health was poor, and he moved frequently in later years. He had intense headaches, nausea and trouble with his eyesight, suggesting that he may have suffered from a slow-growing tumour on the brain. He developed dementia and became totally silent, dying eventually of a stroke in 1900.

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### Definitions

**CHOIR:** A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the Congregation to lip-sync.

**HYMN:** A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation’s range.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** The last song at a church service, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

**JONAH:** The original ‘Jaws’ story.

**AMEN:** The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

## In memory of Doris Lessing

Doris Lessing, the novelist, playwright and poet, was born 100 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1919. In 2007 she won the Nobel Prize in Literature. She died in 2013.

Lessing was born Doris May Tayler in Persia (now Iran). Both parents were British: her father, badly injured in the war, was a bank clerk. In 1925, hoping to get rich through farming, the family moved to Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe).

The wealth did not materialise. Doris was sent to an uncongenial convent school, and then to a high school at Salisbury (now Harare). At 19, she married and had two children. But she left her family and joined the Left Book Club, a group of Communists, marrying one of its members, Gottfried Lessing. They divorced in 1949, and she moved to London.

Doris Lessing wrote in many genres and did not like being pigeon-holed, especially as a feminist, feeling that feminists wanted her to 'bear witness' in religious style. She also became disillusioned by Marxism because it ignored spiritual matters.

She was strongly attracted to Sufism, which she described as a "main current" in her life. This was given expression most markedly in her *Canopus in Argos* novels, about an interstellar society's efforts to influence other worlds, including Earth

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### Warning

A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her father donning his dinner jacket, she objected. "Oh Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit."

Bemused, her father asked why not. The little girl explained: "Because you know that it always gives you a headache the next morning."



# Live 60s/70s Tribute Night

featuring

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## One third of young children have never been to the butcher's or greengrocer's

That is the finding of a survey by Nationwide Building Society, who also found that one in four youngsters of primary school age do not even know what a high street is. More than half have never visited a laundromat, and nearly half have never been to a florist or key-cutter.

The survey comes amidst concerns that the future of Britain's high street is bleak. A recent report by Retail Economics predicts that half of UK retail transactions will be online within a decade, as opposed to a fifth of all transactions at present.

In the past ten years, a number of big chains have disappeared, including Woolworths, BHS, and Toy R Us. Meanwhile Homebase and Marks & Spencer are closing many shops, and profits have dropped at John Lewis. And little wonder: the survey found that 75 per cent of children said that their parents mostly shopped at a supermarket, and 40 per cent had parents who shopped mostly online. Meanwhile, MPs are urging towns to develop a unique selling point, in order to attract shoppers



## In praise of grandparents!

6<sup>th</sup> October is 'Grandparents Day'. Grandparents in the UK number about 17 million, or more than one in four of the adult population. Grandparents average out at 68 years of age, have four grandchildren who live 10 miles away, and who spend five hours per visit.

Grandparents have multiple roles as their grandchildren grow up: play-mates, teachers, confidants, spiritual guides, mentors, role models and nurturers, as well as prayers. They also can keep children's milestones, family history and family events alive. Grandchildren will often discuss their personal concerns with a trusted grandparent.

Grandparents are also important for the UK economy! Nine million of them looked after their grandchildren in 2017. On average they did so for eight hours a week, and 96% received no payment.

Research has found that if grandparents go to church regularly, 60% of their grandchildren are likely to go to church also. Grandparental example is followed!

As about 10% of UK grandparents are churchgoers, would a church 'Grandparents' Group,' to help grandparents meet, discuss issues and pray for their grandchildren be useful? Moses' injunction to the Israelites "not to forget the things your eyes have seen ... make them known to your children and children's children" (Deuteronomy 4:9) is a constant challenge, but Psalm 92:14 is a wonderful promise!

Grandparents' Day in the UK is the first Sunday in October. Should we put that day in our church diary for a special celebration of our grandparents?

# **Sarah Powell**

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**School**

A little girl was struggling with her first term at school. "I'm just wasting my time," she sobbed to her mother.

"I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!"

*Be. Spoilt*

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The Rectory  
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Our Lord said that we will always have some poor with us; were He to have been speaking to the clergy that day, I suspect He may well have said that we will always have some awkward parishioners with us.



My cross at present is Mr and Mrs Wartleby, our resident 'greens', who have adopted ecological attitudes with evangelical fervour.

They do not possess a car and travel everywhere on bicycles, have installed a wind turbine, knit their own muesli and I suspect use the village stream for washing. I can picture Mrs W bashing her husband's shirts on stones on the riverbank while singing a native African folk-song. Everything they wear is home-made; one has a beard and smokes a pipe – possibly Mrs Wartleby.

Their helpful suggestions for church life have been legion: the organ uses electricity unnecessarily and should be replaced by a piano; the Rectory should be sold and the money given away while I board with parishioners on monthly rotation; we should only use home-brewed alcoholic drinks at social functions – clearly they have yet to sample Colonel Tewksbury's elderberry wine, which our ladies have discovered is ideal for cleaning the brass in church.

Unfortunately, I made a deeply regrettable mistake last month in not cancelling our church council meeting when I was away at my annual college re-union. In my absence the Wartlebys seized the opportunity. The parish of St James the Least of All is now a deep green, ecologically committed, nuclear-free zone and I am to report back to the next meeting about what steps we will take to save the planet.



I may have made one error of judgement, but I will not make another. My list of suggestions is now complete:

- 1) To save paper, no minutes of meetings will be printed; I will simply tell people at the subsequent meeting what was decided at the previous one.
- 2) To save electricity, no lights will be used at Evensong (the Wartlebys attend Evensong), although parishioners may bring their own candles – which must first be checked by our health and safety committee (two can play at their game).
- 3) To economise on fuel, the church heating will only be turned on when the temperature reaches minus five degrees.
- 4) To reduce the use of unnecessary electronic equipment, the Rectory telephone will be disconnected.
- 5) A monthly relocation of the Rector will be too disruptive, so I will stay at each house for one year at a time; my first place of residence will be with the Wartlebys.

I anticipate that the original resolution will be overturned at the next PCC meeting – most probably by the Wartlebys.

Your loving uncle,

**Eustace**

---

## **Some miscellaneous one-liners**

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.

The family that sticks together should bathe more often.

Born free. Taxed to death.

By the time you make ends meet, they move the ends.

An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.



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## **SERVICES FOR THE MONTH**

### **October 2019**

**Wednesday 2nd October** 10am - St Peter - Holy Communion - Revd Catherine Mitchell

**Sunday 6th October** - All Saints - 8am - Holy Communion - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

10.30am - All Age Communion - Revd Guy Hewlett

6.30pm - Book of Common Prayer - Evensong - Canon Jan Humphries

St Andrew - 9.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries

St Peter - 10.30am - Parade Service - Revd Catherine Mitchell

**Wednesday 9th October** - 10am - St Peter - Holy Communion - Revd Guy Hewlett

**Sunday 13th October** - All Saints - 8am - Revd Guy Hewlett

10.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries

6.30pm - Book of Common Prayer - Holy Communion - Revd Catherine Mitchell

St Andrew - 9.30am - Holy Communion - Revd Guy Hewlett

St Peter - 10.30am - Holy Communion - Revd Catherine Mitchell

**Wednesday 16th October** - 10am - St Peter - Holy Communion - Revd Catherine Mitchell

**Sunday 20th October** - All Saints - 8am - Revd Guy Hewlett

10.30am - Holy Communion - Revd Guy Hewlett

6.30pm - Book of Common Prayer - Evensong - Canon Jan Humphries

St Andrew - 9.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries

St Peter - 10.30am - Holy Communion - Canon Judith Oliver

**Wednesday 23rd October** - 10am - St Peter - Revd Guy Hewlett

**Sunday 27th October** - 10am - St Peter - Revd Catherine Mitchell

10.30am - Holy Communion - Revd Guy Hewlett

6.30pm - Book of Common Prayer - Evensong - Revd Guy Hewlett

St Andrew - 9.30am - Holy Communion - Revd Catherine Mitchell

St Peter - 10.30am - Worship for All - Suzanne Bradley

**Wednesday 30th October** - 10am - St Peter - Revd Catherine Mitchell