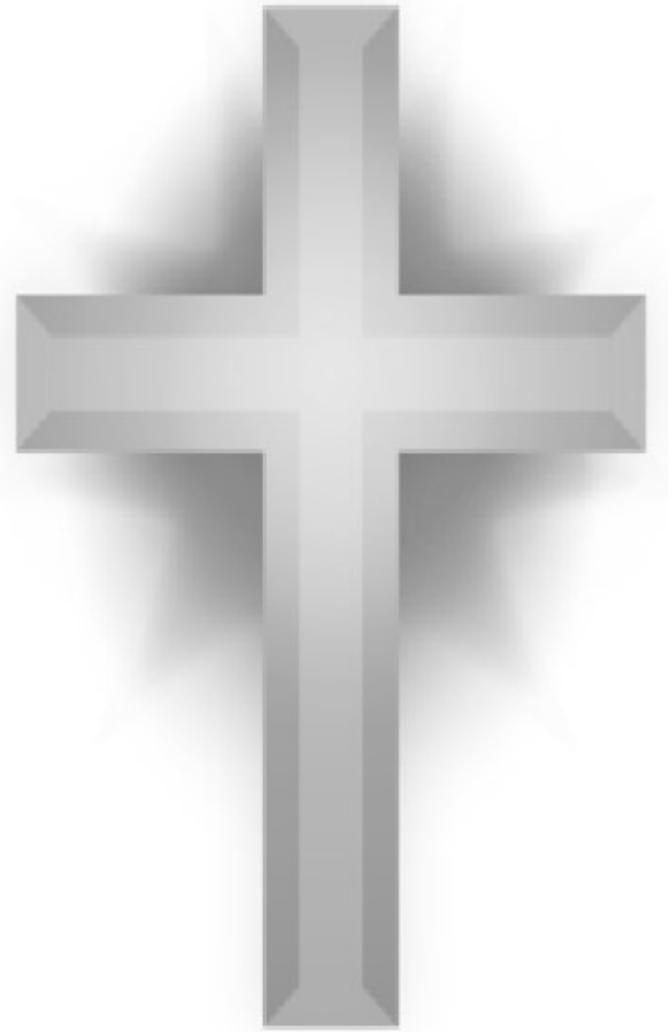
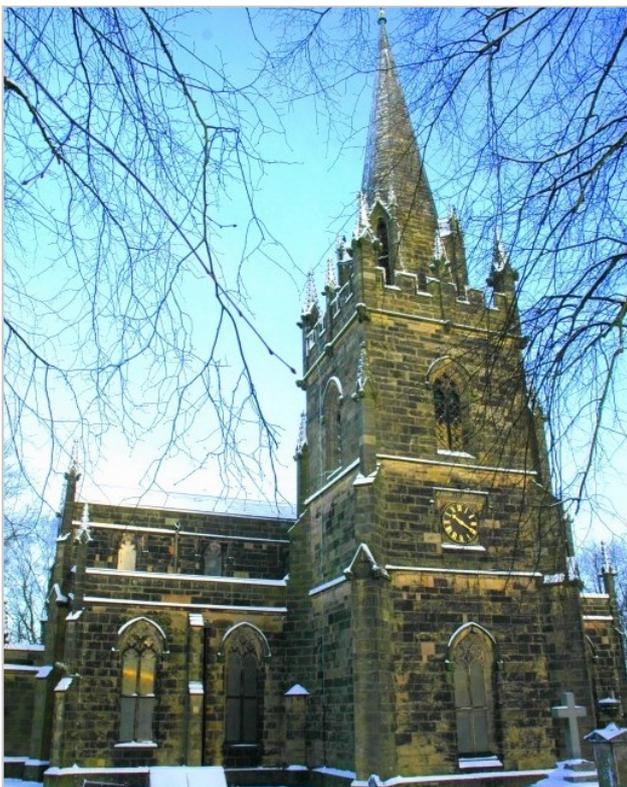


# THE BEACON

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



50p

MARCH 2017

# WHO's WHO

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Youth Leader	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
PCC Secretary	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	Dave Bell	07933 204132
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Junior Church	Barbara Price	01902 676591
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Men's Society	Roger Berry	01902 881374
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## Bishop John's Lent Message

Lent is a time to deepen our faith. There are lots of ways of doing that of course, including prayer, almsgiving and fasting. Whilst embracing those traditional Lenten activities this year I want to suggest a particular focus for Lent: The plight of our fellow Christians throughout the world who are facing unprecedented persecution.

It's more widespread than it has ever been since this crypt was built by St Wulfstan. I don't want to minimise the horror of the persecution of any group. I dare say we are all aware that the majority of those who suffer in Syria at the hands of Muslim extremists are their fellow Muslims. But that oft quoted fact, can mask something very significant. According to the International Society for Human Rights, a secular observatory based in Germany, 80% of all acts of religious discrimination are against Christians.

This finding is echoed in other studies. The Pew Forum estimated that between 2006 and 2010 Christians faced discrimination in a staggering 139 countries. That's three-quarters of the total nations of the world. The Centre for the Study of Global Christianity estimated that 100,000 Christians have died in what it refers to as 'a situation of witness' each year for the past decade – that's eleven Christians every hour, every day of those ten years.

The extraordinarily widespread nature of this new generation of martyrs means that it is not a 'clash of civilisations' between Islam and the West, as is sometimes characterised. In fact, Christians are facing a bewildering variety of threats, with no single enemy.

Almost as disturbing is the lack of reporting of this onslaught by Western mainstream media. I want, this Lent, to encourage all in the Diocese to find out more about those who are suffering – from Syria to Nigeria, from Burma to Egypt, from North Korea to India. There is lots of information about it on the Internet: you don't have to look very far. And the deeper you look the more distressing it becomes.

Pope Francis said in a General Audience four years ago: 'When I hear that so many Christians are suffering, am I indifferent, or is it a member of my own family who is suffering? Am I open to that brother or sister in my family who is giving his or her life for Jesus Christ.'

St Paul's arresting image of the body emphasises that when one suffers, we all suffer. In this Diocese we are seeking to become true to our vocation to become Kingdom People but we cannot do that in isolation. At one level or other, we do all suffer when our brothers and sisters in Christ suffer.

My hope and prayer, as we prepare to commemorate the Lord's passion this coming Holy Week, is that we shall take the plight of our fellow Christians to our hearts – and to our prayers. We might also like to fast for them and give financially to organisations like the Barnabas Fund, Friends of the Holy Land or Embrace the Middle East which seek to come to their aid in more practical ways.

Then with St Paul we shall be able truly to say: 'If one suffers, we all suffer together. We stand with those who suffer praying for the day when we shall all rejoice together.'

May God bless you this Lent.

**+John**

# **Letter from the Bishop Of Dudley**

## **By Bishop Graham Bishop of Dudley**

Judging by various conversations that I've been having, I'm not alone in feeling increasingly concerned by the rhetoric of building walls, putting those we describe as 'us' first, segregating people by religion, and the damning of journalists and judges that we have seen in aspects of world affairs in recent months. None of this chimes with the values of the Kingdom.

News events tend to draw out different aspects of the liturgy for me. It might be a verse in a psalm, or words in a Collect, that have a particular resonance. At present, a prayer at the heart of the Eucharist has taken on a yearning desire:

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

What the prayer does is allow me to hold before God's presence all that troubles me on the world stage. However, it soon reminds me of my own human preponderance to divide and protect, exclude and judge. Its penitential words hollow out my own culpabilities so that I might see myself more truly.

This is what Lent does on a larger canvas. Penitence is a theme that runs through this season and it enables us to be changed as we see love, compassion, justice and freedom as they should be. Lenten penitence brings us back to the way of Jesus, to his disturbing yet comforting teaching, and our faltering ways of responding. It helps us see things as they truly are and live deeply again.

As we are drawn to live more closely within Jesus' shadow, we are led into all types of situations and places as we attempt to respond to his call, 'Come, follow me'. For many that will lead to being scorned and thought of as barmy or uncool. For many others around the world it is a deliberate positioning of themselves in a place of grave danger where imprisonment, torture and death stalk the streets.

We who worship in comparative safety will keep wanting to respond to the news headlines in ways that put flesh and blood onto the words "thy Kingdom come...on earth as it is in heaven".

## **A message from Lyn.**

‘What are you giving up?’ Already I’ve heard people asking one another what they intend to give up for Lent. Some of the past things I’ve been told – bread, red wine, sweets, Facebook. On many occasions, I have considered giving up my cups of tea, but my beloved said we would end up in the divorce courts if I did, in his opinion I would be unbearable to live with without my mugs of tea! One of these days I’ll prove him wrong.

Lent isn’t just about giving things up, or taking things on, for that matter, although these things have a place in Lent, if they achieve something positive. For example, the money that would have been spent on sweets, wine or bread could be saved and donated to charity. Or taking up a Lent challenge such as the Blessings set from Christian Aid enriches not only our own lives by showing us how blessed we are, but raises our awareness of, and aids those who have needs met by the pennies we give each day.

Lent is a season in the church’s year when we can take time to reflect on our lives and see where we need to pay closer attention to God, and at times, less to the expectations of the world. It is a time to try and grow in following Christ and set ourselves new disciplines which will enrich our spiritual health, disciplines which we may continue after Lent has passed, like more interaction with our Bibles or a more regular time for prayer each day.

Lent is a time to re-examine ourselves and see if, and where we stray from the straight path of our Christian journey and to get back onto the right path for our lives. It’s time for a good spiritual spring clean, to refresh and update ourselves, to sparkle anew for God.

Whatever you decide to ‘do’ for Lent, may it be a blessing to you.

## James Makepeace - Some thoughts

I want to say first how much I enjoy conducting some services for you in the churches of the team. You are very welcoming. Actually, since retiring very early from full-time ministry, I am astonished to realise that I have been involved with nine parishes which have had an interregnum, fifteen churches if they are counted separately i.e. counting your team as three. All are different and I cannot get bored! So I thought I would share some of my experiences with you.

It might be helpful to say at the beginning that a good friend of mine would never use the word interregnum. Vicars should not be seen to reign over churches; they were there to lead and to serve, he said. God reigns over the church. I agree with that, so I will use the word vacancy. I believe it to be worth saying that none of my churches collapsed during a vacancy; in each case, groups of eager, intelligent and hard-working people got together and ran the church. I am left with the view that actually they do it better! I could even take you to a church where attendance was higher during the vacancy than before or after. My experience tells me that what is required during a vacancy is a decent, reverent Sunday service, occasional advice on technicalities e.g. weddings and some assurance that a proper job is being done.

Which leads me to a vital question. Some years ago I dared to suggest to a congregation that they should decide, in advance, what they wanted their priest to do. They blatantly did not understand and I don't blame them for that. I was endeavouring to underline how enormously the job of a parish priest has changed since I was ordained. The parish system was designed for villages and it worked extremely well. As soon as the industrial revolution began, and towns began to appear, the system's weaknesses became all too obvious. Added to all this is the fact that when I was ordained there were about twenty thousand priests; now, in parishes, there are less than eight thousand.

It therefore seems clear that the ‘clerk in holy orders’ of a hundred years ago is disappearing, to be replaced by priest and people sharing all the work, with congregations deciding how they want their priest to fit into their church’s life and witness. Naturally certain aspects of a priest’s life stand. A priest leads the people, celebrates the sacraments, preaches and teaches and shepherds the flock. I leave out ‘running’ the church.

So how I could I put this simply? When I first became a vicar, in Romford, I decided that God was calling me not to be the Chief Executive Officer but the Chairman. In other words, I was not there to ‘run’ the church but to lead it, to preside over its work, yet always to be alongside the people who, after all, were the church. I humbly commend this thought to you.

Very best wishes, **James Makepeace.**

## **Time for the C of E to mobilise the lay people!**

The Church of England needs to undergo a major “culture shift” to mobilise lay members to spread the gospel in their everyday lives. So argues a new report recently presented to members of the General Synod.

The report, entitled “Setting God’s People Free”, calls for Christians to be equipped to live out their faith in every sphere – from the factory or office, to the gym or shop - to help increase numbers of Christians and their influence in all areas of life.

Laity and clergy should view themselves as equal partners in the task of evangelising the nation, it insists. The paper is a key element of the lay leadership strand of Renewal and Reform, an initiative from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, to help grow the Church. The report was among papers given to members of the Church of England’s General Synod, which met in Westminster in February.



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# Jesus and The President of the United States of America

## **What did they have in common?**

A few weeks ago I preached a sermon at All Saints and St Andrews which began by comparing Jesus with President D Trump. I suggested that at first sight there might be some similarities. For example they both were anti-establishment and they championed 'the forgotten' people who had been left behind. They suspected the powerful at the centre of government in the capital cities of Jerusalem and Washington. You couldn't stay neutral about either of them.' He who is not with me is against me' said Jesus. Just as President Trump drew rude sarcastic comments, so it was asked of Jesus: 'What good thing can come out of Nazareth?'

## **Jesus broke down The Wall**

There any similarity ends. One of President Trump's most repeated promises was to build a 'big beautiful wall' along the Mexican border to keep would be immigrants out of the USA. Jesus was against walls. Indeed in his life and death 'he broke down the middle wall of partition'. On Good Friday at the moment of his death on the cross the curtain dividing off the Holy of Holies, where only priests could enter, from the rest of the temple was rent in twain signifying that the ancient separation between religion and secular day to day life was once and for all broken. In Him 'we are now all one, neither slave nor free, Jew or Gentile', and we might add Christian or Muslim. **We are all one in Christ said St. Paul.** He is the peace between us.

## **The World is getting darker**

In these days, above all, this is crucial not only to the Church but to the future peace of our world. The prospects for our world have not seemed darker in my lifetime. Our own Archbishop said in a recent speech 'that public life since the referendum had been deeply divided' and not just in the UK but throughout the world. Politicians throughout Europe and America are blaming the outsider for our ills and encouraging people to scapegoat the refugee and the stranger.

## **He is the Peace between us**

When we exchange The Peace in Church each Sunday we shake hands and say 'The Peace of the Lord', echoing the ancient resonant Jewish greeting of 'Shalom'. Christ on the cross made peace between all peoples. He offers us His Gift of Peace. In accepting and sharing that Peace we dedicate ourselves to offering and living that same Peace outside the walls of the Church.

## **Learning to love the Stranger**

It comes down to this question which I came across in a monthly church newsletter:

“Today, our lives are enmeshed with conflicts far away and cultures utterly unlike our own. God has given us many faiths, [and] only one world in which we live together and it is getting smaller all the time.

Can we see God's image in one who is not in our image? Can we hear His voice in accents unlike our own? Can we learn to love the stranger? “

On our answer to this question depends the future of our children and grandchildren.

**And it has been good to preside at services over the past months and to find that strangers are becoming friends. Thank you for your hospitality!**

**Peter Kerr**

## **FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT**

Please support our BIG BREW Coffee Morning on Friday 3rd March (Fair Trade cakes to sample) and Fair Trade Service on Sunday 5th March. Crafts and food will be on sale. A sample of Fair Trade Easter Eggs will be on show on 3rd and 5th March - orders will be taken. Easter cards will be available soon.

## **Our former organist and choirmaster Mel Jones dies**

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **Mel Jones, former director of music at All Saints'** - he was our **organist and choirmaster** from January 1989 - December 2013.

Mel passed away in the early hours of Monday 13th February 2017 after a brief illness; our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Glenise.

It was only very recently that Mel returned to All Saints', when he played at the funeral of **Mary Cleaver**.

Mel was a much respected and talented musician, who will be sadly missed.

### **Funeral arrangements**

Mel's funeral will be held at **St John the Baptist, Halesowen**, on Friday 3rd March 2017, at 10.30am.

**Choir and congregation tributes to Mel Jones  
Organist and Choirmaster at All Saints'  
from January 1989-December 2013  
who died on 13th February 2017.**

***Valerie Foster, who attended Mary Cleaver's funeral on 9/2/17,  
when Mel played the organ at All Saints' for the last time:***

As visitors to the church, we attended Mary's funeral service last week and sat on the left of the church near the organ.

I was drawn to the peace and devotion of the organist who appeared to be beautifully sensitive and humble.

I was shocked to learn of his passing, but as the website stated that he passed away after a short illness, I am incredibly touched by a 'servant heart' that would serve Mary and her family at the funeral, while knowing how soon his own journey may take place.

May God bless those he loved and who he has gone ahead of.

- o -

***Charles Beadle - Mel played at Charles's mother Mary Cleaver's funeral:***

I found my Mum's funeral service a real comfort to all of us, and Mel played so gloriously it felt we were touching heaven. He used his gifting in music so generously, and I will remember him always with heartfelt thankfulness. I heard so many comments about how beautiful the service was.

Mel's life here is perfectly complete and I pray that Glenise and the family will experience the same "King of Love" comfort that we have known with Mary's departure.

- o -

***From Des and Jean Round. Des was a longstanding choir member at All Saints', and friend of Mel:***

When Mel Jones came to All Saints' in 1989 the choir was in much the same state as it is now. We had men on Sundays with additional lady members to fill in for special events, Christmas, Easter etc.

Soon after Mel arrived he set about two things with a great deal of enthusiasm:

1. to update the organ facility;
2. to form a choir of boys and men good enough to sing at cathedral level.

Both of these tasks he achieved after much hard work.

The new digital organ is still going today and the choir reached a very high standard, up to cathedral level.

It was for me a very great pleasure to sing in a choir like that and it's thanks to Mel for getting the best out of both boys and men who performed beautifully at all these great venues especially the last one we sang at, Worcester Cathedral.

I for one will be eternally grateful for his contribution to our church music over the years. We have his recorded accompaniments to be played when necessary, so his music will never be lost to us.

On a more personal note I feel as though I have lost a very good friend, as does Jean. Our thoughts and prayers are with Glenise at this sad time.

- o -

## ***From the Anderson Family:***

We were one of the first families that Mel approached on his arrival at All Saints'. I distinctly remember him turning up on our doorstep one day in early January 1989, presumably having been advised of a number of potential recruits in the family! He explained that he was the new organist and choirmaster and he was hoping to recruit some boys to join the men in the church choir. With a little persuasion James, then aged 9, and Peter, aged 8, agreed to give it a try. Tim joined a year later, and then Simon in 1992. Sarah too, became a member once girls were allowed in! They all achieved their red medals under the expert tutelage of Mr Jones!

During May 1990 the choir went on their first 'visit', successfully singing Evensong at Southwell Minster. Mel was a hard taskmaster and perfectionist but the boys flourished in the choir enjoying many more cathedral trips over the years. It was a pleasure to accompany them on these visits – they sang Evensong at many venues including Tewkesbury Abbey, Gloucester, Lichfield, Coventry, Worcester and Chester Cathedrals. Nor can I forget all the music we experienced at All Saints beyond the usual Sunday services – Easter, Christmas, choral Evensongs, occasional organ recitals, and at the weddings of Megan & Pete and Emily & Simon. I joined the Chamber Choir in 2001 and have loved being involved.

Of course, I can't forget to mention his sublime talent at playing the organ. His skills on the keyboard were incomparable, his ability to improvise never failed to impress, even occasional medleys including such tunes as Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, bringing on a little smile to those of us that noticed!

We have lost a good and gifted friend but will treasure those wonderful memories – thank you Mel!

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# THE BEACON

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

Keith Tomlinson : tel. 01902 673366.

**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 April magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

**Friday 17th March**

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

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.

## **DIARY DATES FOR MARCH 2017**

### **Dates for Diary**

**Townswomen's Guild** - 2nd March 2017 - 10am

**Ladies Society** - 6th March 2017 - 7pm - Bring and Buy with Quiz

### **Mothers' Union:**

7th March 2017 - 2.30pm - World Peace Flame - Joan Sullivan - Hall

13th March 2017 - 11.30am - Wave Of Prayer - In Church

21st March 2017 - 7.15pm - Communion - TBA - Revd Judith Oliver - In Church

**200 Club Meal - Hall -**

11th March - 7.30pm

**Men's Society - Meeting Room -** 20th March - 7pm

**Genealogy - Meeting Room -** 30th March - 7pm

### **Funerals**

Janice Norma Jones -

2nd February - All Saints'

Mary Cleaver -

9th February - All Saints'

Olive Wallett -

9th February - Gornal Wood Crem

Ruby Christina Smart -

10th February - All Saints'

Norma Iris Gwendolyn Plawecki -

21st February - Gornal Wood

### **Flower Rota - March 2017**

March 5th - Lent - No Flowers

March 12th - Lent - No Flowers (Dorothy Inett - Porch Arrangement)

March 19th - Lent - No Flowers

March 26th - Lent - No Flowers

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## **Ash Wednesday: a good time to admit you are sorry**

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

‘I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance’ (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

‘Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

‘Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.’ (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

### **Norma Plawecki**

We would like to thank everyone in the congregation who has prayed for my mum, Norma Plawecki, over the latter years of her life and for the warm wishes of sympathy sent to the family, especially my father Stan, following her death. We were blessed by her life with us and give thanks that she is now at peace with our Lord.

**Kathryn, Graham and Stan**

## **17<sup>th</sup> March - St Patrick beloved apostle to Ireland**

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh, and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

## **Present**

For the elderly minister's 70th birthday, the congregation at St Mary's decided to give him a present of a new suit. He was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, and said: 'Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit.'

## **How many words does it take?**

Pythagorean Theorem:	24 words.
Lord's Prayer:	66 words.
Archimedes' Principle:	67 words.
Ten Commandments:	179 words.
Gettysburg address:	286 words.
US Declaration of Independence :	1,300 words.
US Constitution with all 27 Amendments:	7,818 words.
EU regulations on the sale of cabbage:	26,911 words.

Puts things into proper perspective, doesn't it?

## Our Adventures in Hong Kong!

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 saw John and I begin our first long haul trip, to Hong Kong to witness the marriage of Tim and Iris. We set off together with James, Wai, Suzy-Mae and Sarah arriving at Heathrow over four hours early for our 9pm flight – I wanted to be sure to get there in time!! It was an uneventful flight although none of us slept much during the 12 hour journey time. We were excited to meet Tim and Iris at the airport and they duly escorted us to our various hostelries. Our hotel room was 35 floors up and although it was dark the view was spectacular. Even more so the next morning when viewed in daylight.



A busy few days followed in the lead up to the wedding including meeting Iris's parents, a wedding rehearsal, a visit to Victoria Harbour and The Peak and St John's Cathedral. A great deal of time was spent negotiating the vast and very efficient, if slightly daunting, underground MTR system. We were also fortunate enough to be invited to visit Tim's workplace. He is a Native English Teacher at a Christian Alliance secondary school in the New Territories. We were warmly welcomed by staff and students alike and spent a fascinating and very interesting day.

The wedding day itself was a totally new experience. It was a full day starting at 7:15am with the groom's party travelling to the bride's home to take part in 'Door Games'. On arrival, John and I were taken into their home and welcomed by many family members. The groom and his groomsmen, including Sarah and James, had to wait outside until invited in by the bridesmaids; they were then required to perform challenges before being allowed to meet the bride. This included drinking down dead insects and eating sweets off a washing line! Having succeeded in his challenges, Tim made a speech to entice his bride out from her room. Tim and Iris then had to perform the tea ceremony which involves offering a sip of tea to their elders, that is: parents, aunts and uncles, and older sib-

We then all moved on to the church for the Christian wedding ceremony. This was performed in English and Cantonese and was very moving. Iris's Mum and I had to each light a candle placed on the altar; at the end of the service Tim and Iris lit the candle in the middle, the Unity Candle, symbolising a joining of the two families and the start of their new life together.

Many photographs were then taken both at the church and later along the waterfront down on Victoria Harbour. The day ended with a 10-course banquet at a Chinese restaurant with dishes such as suckling pig, ducks' feet, and other traditional Chinese delights! It was a truly memorable and unique day.

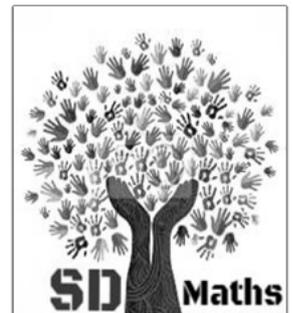
Iris and Tim send their thanks for all the good wishes they received from members of All Saints. They are looking forward to their UK ceremony on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 2pm. Any members of the congregation will be welcome to attend the church service.

## **Sue Anderson**



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## **26<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday and Mother Church**

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ. On Midlent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The British Isles seem to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.



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## Can you meet the **ONE FRIDAY** challenge?

ONE FRIDAY is a recently launched initiative that aims to help churches and community groups to find new ways of telling the Good Friday story outside the walls of the church. This year the most imaginative projects will benefit from an award of £1000, and four awards of £200.

The projects will be judged by a panel including Roy Crowne (Executive Director of HOPE Together) and Canon David Wilkinson (Principal of St Johns College Durham.) The awards will be made to the organisations that deliver the most inspiring and effective events or activities in 2017.

The judges will be looking for entries that are most effective in engaging their local community with the Good Friday story as told in the Christian gospels. Credit will be given for ambition, originality, imagination, contextual relevance and impact in the community beyond the confines of the church. The relative size and resources of the organizing group will be taken into account.

The activity or event must take place between Ash Wednesday 1st March and Easter Sunday 16th April 2017. The competition is open to churches or groups of churches, schools, community groups and other organisations working in a particular locality within the UK.

Organiser Andrew Graystone says: 'Throughout the ages Christians have responded to the Good Friday story by commissioning public art or music, or by performing Passion plays. Churches of many denominations still meet together ecumenically through Lent, or mark Good Friday with a combined service or a Walk of Witness.

More details at: [www.onefriday.info](http://www.onefriday.info)

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## Interesting Facts – by Tony Wright

Glass takes one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!

Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years.

Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.

If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.

Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals.

Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.

The song, Auld Lang Syne, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the New Year.

Drinking water after eating reduces the acid in your mouth by 61 percent.

Peanut oil is used for cooking in submarines because it doesn't smoke unless it's heated above 450F.

The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.

Nine out of every 10 living things live in the ocean.

The banana cannot reproduce itself. It can be propagated only by the hand of man.

Airports at higher altitudes require a longer airstrip due to lower air density.

The University of Alaska spans four time zones.

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself. In ancient Greece, tossing an apple to a girl was a traditional proposal of marriage. Catching it meant she accepted.

Warner Communications paid \$28 million for the copyright to the song Happy Birthday.

# PARAPROSDOKIANS

(Winston Churchill loved them)

are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
9. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
10. Buses stop in bus stations. Trains stop in train stations. On my desk is a work station.
11. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted paychecks.
12. In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'
13. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
14. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
15. Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
16. A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
17. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
18. Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

**Tony Wright**

# **Ladies Society**

## **“Doing a Lumley” Part 2**

**By Pauline Turner**

We were all agog waiting for Pauline to embark on the second instalment of her wonderful “World Tour”. Last time we heard about all their adventures in America and now we were to hear about Japan. It was a 10 hour flight America to Tokyo and when they let Customs, they had to find their own way to the Hotel!

Pauline said Tokyo was beautiful with lovely gardens, full of flowers which Pauline said were like Guernsey Lilies. There was lots of sunshine but it was very hot. They were offered Green Tea, but Pauline did not like it, she said it was very bitter.

We saw lovely pictures taken from the boat on a river trip. Japan is very quiet compared with the West; the people are very respectful to each other, bowing as they part company.

There are lots of Temples with beautiful buildings and many had markets behind them. The markets sold mostly souvenirs with lots of imitation ivory. Mobile phones were only allowed in certain compartments on trains, so that the rest of the passengers are able to travel in peace.

There were Statues of Buddha’s in all the gardens, and so they moved on, they were supposed to visit Mount Fuji but it was shrouded in mist so they didn’t go. We saw a picture of a Japanese Wedding which was very beautiful and a picture of the graveyard at Hiroshima, also Bullet trains in Tokyo.

When they left Tokyo they went to Hong Kong where they were met by Tim Anderson and his Fiancée Iris who is now his wife. They saw a Dragon Dance whilst in Hong Kong where they stayed for four nights. There was also a Laser Light Show which was very good. The harbour was beautiful as it was surrounded by little gardens.

As we left Hong Kong, the journey continued to China – this we look forward to seeing in part 3 of Pauline’s adventures.

Our next meeting is on March 6<sup>th</sup>, perhaps not so interesting as Pauline’s talk, just a Quiz and a “Bring and Buy” Sale.

I hope to see you all there.

**Molly Taft**

## **How God works**

A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring day. Wanting to encourage her grandson’s spiritual understanding of the world, she said: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God did all this?"

Her grandson replied: "Oh yes, and God did it left handed, too." In astonishment, the grandmother asked what he meant. "Well, he must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."

# **ACTS 435 - A Different Kind of Charity**

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One of the loveliest parts of the ACTS 435 is to receive a message of thanks sent by the recipient – such as:-

“To our Guardian Angels. We needed help you were there. We needed love and your care. You gave your time and that was fair. We didn't even see you there. The love you've shown will stay forever. We love you so much our birds of a feather. You will always be in our grace. You saved us –“D' and family.”

For more information or to make a personal donation visit [admin@acts435.org.uk](mailto:admin@acts435.org.uk)

ACTS 435 IS All Saints' Sedgley chosen charity of the month for April 2017.

**Tony Hart**

## **Car Stickers - all popular with women**

1. My mother is a travel agent for guilt trips.
2. Princess, having had sufficient experience with princes, seeks frog.
3. Coffee, chocolate, men. Some things are just better rich.
4. Don't treat me any differently than you would the Queen.
5. If you want breakfast in bed, sleep in the kitchen.

# WWI TIMELINE - EVENTS OF 1917

## March 1917

- 1st British hospital ship 'Glenart Castle' damaged by mine between Havre and Southampton.
- 8th Count Zeppelin dies.
- 11th Baghdad occupied by British Forces.  
Allied offensive in Macedonia to free Monastir, (ends 23<sup>rd</sup>).
- 12th Russian Revolution begins.  
U.S. Government announce arming of all merchant vessels.
- 14th German forces withdraw from the Somme sector to the Hindenburg line. China severs diplomatic relations with Germany.
- 15th Nicholas 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tzar of Russia, abdicates.
- 16th Action between German raider 'Leopard' and HMS 'Achilles' and Armed Boarding Steamer 'Dundee': 'Leopard' sunk.  
Mutiny breaks out in Russian Baltic fleet.
- 17th Bapaume occupied by British Forces. German airship 'L-39' destroyed at Compiègne when returning from raid on England.
- 18th German destroyer raid on Ramsgate & Broadstairs.  
Allied forces occupy Peronne & Noyon.
- 19th French battleship 'Danton' sunk in Mediterranean.
- 21st British hospital ship 'Asturia' torpedoed off Start Point.
- 24th British offensive in Palestine begins.

- 26th First Battle of Gaza begins (ends 27<sup>th</sup>).
- 30th British hospital ship 'Gloucester Castle' torpedoed between Havre & Southampton - towed in.
- 31st Emperor of Austria makes secret proposal to French President to open conversations with a view to peace.

\*\*\*\*\*

The coldest winter of the century ended any possibility of an early offensive. As the British completed their preparations to launch a spring offensive at Arras, the Germans - between March 15 and April 5 - withdrew to the Hindenburg Line. During the withdrawal, the Germans systematically destroyed all the roads, railways, bridges and buildings in their way, thus presenting the Allies with a devastated wasteland to cross before coming up against a purpose-built defensive position of intimidating strength.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Australian infantry brigade were led, through the wasteland, by their regimental band as they entered Bapaume in March 1917 during the Allied advance across territory abandoned by the Germans.

<<<<<>>>>

God knows 'twere better to be deep  
 Pillowed in silk and scented down,  
 Where love throbs out in blissful sleep,  
 Pulse nigh to pulse, and breath to breath,  
 Where hushed awakenings are dear...  
 But I've a rendezvous with Death  
 At midnight in some flaming town,  
 When Spring trips north again this year,  
 And I to my pledged word am true,  
 I shall not fail that rendezvous.

(Extract from 'Rendezvous with death' by Alan Seeger 1916)

## Rosemary Moss

# Sedgley Register

**Sedgley Archives Project** has started a **register and database** of press cuttings, documents and photographs of Sedgley.

The first item to be placed on the register concerns the family of **John Twigg Homer**, who was a **churchwarden at All Saints'** and lived at Dormston House in Dudley Street.

A photo and article about the **Homers of Dormston House** was published in the Black Country Bugle in December 1992 – it has been lent to us by **David Melhuish**. It adds considerably to our knowledge of the family, who were great benefactors of All Saints' and the village.

We will be recording items lent to the Project on a '**Sedgley Register**', which will list materials that relate specifically to Sedgley, and where they are kept and/or available to view.

Wherever possible the items will be **scanned** - and then either deposited with **Dudley Archives** or returned to the lender.

Should we be fortunate enough to receive funding through one of our bids, we aim to make items for which we have the owner's permission and/or licensing consent available to view permanently on a '**Sedgley Community Archive Touchscreen**' which we hope will be based at **Sedgley Library**.

We will be **issuing receipts** for any items loaned.

**Martin Jones**

## The funeral of Mary Cleaver.

The funeral of All Saints' congregation member **Mary Cleaver** was held on Thursday 9th February at 12.30pm. Around 150 people attended - members of her family travelled here from all over the UK.

She first taught in Sedgley at **Queen Victoria School** in the 1960s, then at **Alder Coppice School** in the 1970s and 80s, where she eventually became **Deputy Headteacher**.

She was a strong attender and supporter of our church for over sixty years, where she would invariably worship at the 8.00am and 6.30pm Sunday services.

In later years she attended Midweek Communion at All Saints' on Wednesday evenings; she also cleaned the church with a group of ladies on Tuesday mornings, enabling the rest of our congregation to enjoy a beautiful place in which to worship.

Mary's service was led by our former Team Rector **Revd Canon Stephen Buckley**, who returned to us from his new home in Worcester, and he was assisted by our **LLM Jan Humphries**, who sang '**There is a Redeemer**' by Melody Green most beautifully.

The Bible reading, from Romans, Chapter 8, was read by **Sheila Kendrick**. A tribute to Mary was paid by her close friend **Patricia**, and her son **Charles** delivered a vote of thanks to all who have assisted in the funeral arrangements, at the end of the service.

Mary led a devout Christian life, devoted to the wellbeing and service of others.

**Martin Jones**

# MOTHERS' UNION

It is always a pleasure to welcome Margaret Penn to speak at our meetings. I have known Margaret for many years, from when she was a Branch Leader, Deanery Leader, Vice-President and now MUe Rep. Her concern for members in the branches has always been paramount. Margaret talked about Mothers' Union projects in our area; the Teenage Mums project, our support for 'New Beginnings', and the knitting that goes into the hospitals and prisons. Members are living out one of the aims of the Mothers' Union, 'to support families and help those whose family life has met with adversity', through these projects.

Our evening meeting, 'Desert Island Choices', was a take on 'Desert Island Discs'. Each member chose a book, piece of music and a luxury item they would have on their desert island. We shared our choices and reasons for them and everyone agreed they had had a most enjoyable evening.

The time passed quickly amid the chatter and no doubt sparked other memories and ideas in our minds as we wound our way home. I would add there was also a lot of laughter which is always a good tonic.

Our Wave of Prayer service is on Monday 13th March at 11.30am in church. This is an opportunity to remember our link dioceses. Those members who are unable to be at the service can pick up a service sheet from the back of our churches.

Our Lenten Project this year is to provide items for 'Starter Packs' for the Women's Refuge. Lists of the items needed are on the Mothers' Union notice boards at All Saints' and at St Andrew's. There are boxes, in the narthex at All Saints' and at the back of church at St Andrew's, in which to place items during Lent. The Coffee Morning and Collection will be at All Saints' on Saturday 29th April.

## **Dates:**

7th March 2.30pm	World Peace Flame, Joan Sullivan
13th March 11.30pm	Wave of Prayer, in church
21st March 7.15pm	Communion followed by Revd Judith Oliver

**Liz Williams**

## **MAKE A MOTHER'S DAY**

The Mothers' Union is promoting 'Make a Mothers' Day' again this year. The project raises funds for MU work caring for families worldwide. This will be the church 'Charity of the Month' during March. Further information about this can be found on the Charity of the Month board at the back of church.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES – 1st MARCH**

There will be a communion service with Imposition of Ashes at 10.00am at St Peter's and at 7.30pm at All Saints'.

## **with Mothering Sunday in mind...**

No man or woman ever had a nobler challenge or a higher privilege than to bring up a child for God, and whenever we slight the privilege or neglect that ministry for anything else, we live to mourn it in heartache and grief. C Havner

I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians of England. John Wesley.

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## The Mayflower – a tragic tale.

You may have seen the recent BBC 4 documentary about the voyage of the Pilgrim Fathers, Calvinist separatists from the Church of England, whose voyage on the Mayflower helped in the founding of America.

What caught my eye on the programme was the ship's manifest on which appear the names of the More children, baptised at **St James', Shipton in Shropshire**, who were spirited away to the New World to avoid embarrassment to the Lord of the Manor. It was something that stood out on our visit to the church – the children are commemorated on a plaque at St James's.

**Samuel More** of Larden Hall, Shipton (demolished in 1967) was secretary to **Lord Edward Zouche**, privy councillor, diplomat and courtier. He claimed that his four children were in fact those of another man who had a longstanding affair with his wife. Through his high connections in government, Samuel arranged for them all to 'disappear' on the Mayflower in 1620.

They were placed in the guardianship of adults on the voyage. Only one, **Richard More**, survived into adulthood, and became a sea captain. His siblings all died within months of arriving in the New World.

**Martin Jones**

### **With St David and St Patrick in mind...**

I cared not where or how I lived, or what hardships I went through, so that I could but gain souls for Christ. - David Brainerd.

If we would win some we must be winsome. - Anon

A crowd is not an achievement, only an opportunity. W E Sangster

I cannot recall, in any of my reading, a single instance of a prophet who applied for the job. - A W Tozer



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Application for grants are invited from individuals or organisations resident in the area of benefit. Application forms are available from the incumbent of any of the parishes mentioned above, or alternatively from:

**The Secretary to the Trustees: 12 Larkswood Drive,  
Sedgley, Dudley, West Midlands DY3 3UQ**

## **Just Thoughts.**

Marriage. If you want something to last forever, you should treat it differently. You shield and protect it. You never abuse it. You don't expose it to the elements. You don't make it common or ordinary. If it ever becomes tarnished, you lovingly polish it until it gleams like new. It becomes special because you have made it so, and it grows more beautiful and precious as the time goes by.

### **Who do you think I am?**

I am your constant companion.

I am your greatest helper or heaviest burden.

I will push you to success or drag you down to failure.

I am completely at your command.

Half the things that you do, you might as well turn over to me  
and I will be able to do them quickly and correctly.

I am easily changed, I learn quickly, you must be firm with me.  
Show me exactly what you want done and, after a few attempts

I will get it done for you.

I am the servant of all great people and alas of all failure as well.

Those who are great I have made great.

Those who are failures I have made fail.

I am not a machine though I work with all the precision of a machine.  
You may run me for a profit or use me for ruin it makes no difference to  
me.

Take me, train me, be firm with me, and I will put the world at your feet.

Be lazy with me I will destroy you.

Who am I?

I am your Attitude.

“It’s impossible” says pride. “It’s risky” says experience. “It’s pointless” say reason. “Give it a try” whispers your heart.

If you obey all of the rules, you will miss out on some of the fun.

The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any.

Everyone is the artist of their own life.

Now and again it’s good to give up the pursuit of happiness and just be happy.

A good laugh and a long sleep are the two best cures for anything.

Don’t underestimate anyone, they may know more than they say, think more than they speak of, and notice more than you realise.

Forgive the Past --- Live the Present --- Create the Future.

Be aware that all your actions have consequences.

May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.

It takes a big heart to help shape little minds.

Knowledge comes from books, but wisdom comes from life.

Sometimes it’s better just to smile and remain silent.

Silent isn’t empty, it’s full of answers.

**Compiled by David Melhuish.**

# Easy Bake Carrot Cake.

## Ingredients:

3 eggs  
100g brown sugar  
100g sunflower oil  
1 orange rind and juice  
200g self raising wholemeal flour  
200g finely grated carrots  
50g chopped walnuts  
125 g softened butter  
250 g icing sugar  
1 tspn cinnamon

## Method:

Beat together the eggs, sugar, oil, and orange rind.

Mix in flour, followed by the grated carrots and walnuts.

Pour into an oiled and greaseproof lined 20cm cake tin and bake in a preheated oven at 180 degrees C, Fan 160 degrees C, 350 degrees F, Gas 4, for 45 -50 mins.

Cool the cake slightly before turning out onto a wire rack to cool.

To make the icing (optional).

Mix together the butter, icing sugar, cinnamon and just enough orange juice to make a spreading consistency.

Spread over top and sides of cold cake.

## Times Past

Gloucestershire Chronicle - 29th March 1834

BEER HOUSES. – In the House of Lords, on Thursday, Lord Lyttleton presented a petition from the Rev. Charles Girdlestone, vicar of Sedgley, Staffordshire, praying for an alteration in the Beer Bill. The petitioner, he believed, was well known to many of their Lordships, and was highly respected for his piety and zeal in the performance of his duties. The petition, which was read at length, declared that the Beer Bill had failed in its objects. It had neither destroyed monopoly nor furnished the people with a supply of good beer, but had tended to increase crime and immorality.

London Evening Standard - 22nd March 1883

### THE SEDGLEY DECISION - TO THE EDITOR OF THE STANDARD.

Sir, - The decision of a Magistrate at Sedgley, reported in your issue of to-day, will cause astonishment to many.

Two police officers insist on smoking in a second-class non-smoking compartment on the London and North-western Railway, to the annoyance of a gentleman in the same compartment. They refuse to desist on being asked to do so, and the railway officials decline to interfere. They are summoned, but the Sedgley Justice dismisses the summons, and says that the gentleman could have left the carriage.

According to this extraordinary decision, any rough fellow can smoke in any carriage, and those who object can leave the compartment. The question is, where are they to go to, as the same may, of course, happen in any other carriage?

What are the Bye-laws made for, if the public are placed at the mercy of any police officer who chooses to smoke, in spite of remonstrance, in a non-smoking carriage?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
March 20

NON-SMOKER

## MINERS NEGLECT OF WORK AT SEDGLEY

At Sedgley Police Court, yesterday, twenty-two men employed by the Baggeridge Colliery Company were summoned for neglect of work during January. Mr. W. N. Foster prosecuted. It was stated that in consequence of the neglect of the defendants the company lost 1,370 tons in output, which at a profit of 1s. per ton represented £68 10s. They also lost in dead charges £273 17s. 6d., and in timber £22 10s. – Verdicts were given for the plaintiffs for sums varying from £1 7s. to £4 16s. and costs.

## **St Joseph – patron saint of fathers and holy death**

Why should St Joseph's day be in March? Surely he belongs to Advent and Christmas, at Mary's side in millions of nativity scenes around the world.

In any case, as foster-father of Christ and husband of Mary, Joseph played a major part in the story of the coming of Jesus Christ. All that we know about him for sure is in the gospels. Read especially Matthew 1 – 2. He was of Davidic descent, but his trade as a carpenter shows that he was not at all wealthy.

Joseph's gentleness and decency towards Mary, and his willingness to do God's will when it was revealed to him, portray him as a kind and godly person. Joseph is the patron saint of fathers of families, and he makes an excellent example. He comes across as a protecting, loyal, thoughtful, self-controlled person, full of integrity, and willing to work hard. Who wouldn't want a father like that?

Joseph is also the patron saint of all who desire a holy death. Thus countless churches, hospitals and religious congregations are dedicated to Joseph.



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# SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

## MARCH 2017

### 1st March - Ash Wednesday

St Peter's 10am - Team Service - Eucharist + Ashes (James Makepeace)  
All Saints' 7.30pm - Team Service - Eucharist + Ashes (Judith Oliver)

### 5th March - 1st Sunday of Lent

All Saints' 8am - The Revd Canon Judith Oliver  
St Andrew's 9.30am - The Revd James Makepeace  
All Saints' 10.30am - Morning Prayer with Jan Humphries  
St Peter's 10.30am - The Revd Canon Judith Oliver  
All Saints' 6.30pm - Jan Humphries

### 12th March - 2nd Sunday of Lent

All Saints' 8am - The Revd Canon Peter Kerr  
St Andrew's 9.30am - Morning Prayer with Jan Humphries  
All Saints; 10.30am - The Revd Canon Peter Kerr  
St Peter's 10.30am - The Revd James Makepeace  
All Saints' 6.30pm - The Revd Alan Howes

### 19th March - 3rd Sunday Of Lent

All Saints' 8am - The Revd Lyn Rowson  
St Andrew's 9.30am - Jan Humphries - By Extn.  
All Saints' 10.30am - The Revd James Makepeace  
St Peter's 10.30am - Morning Prayer with Suzanne Bradley  
All Saints' 6.30pm - Jan Humphries

### 26th March - Mothering Sunday

All Saints' 8am - The Revd Canon Peter Kerr  
St Andrew's 9.30am - The Revd James Makepeace  
All Saints' 10.30am - The Revd Canon Peter Kerr  
St Peter's 10.30am - Suzanne Bradley  
All Saints' 6.30pm - Compline with Jan Humphries