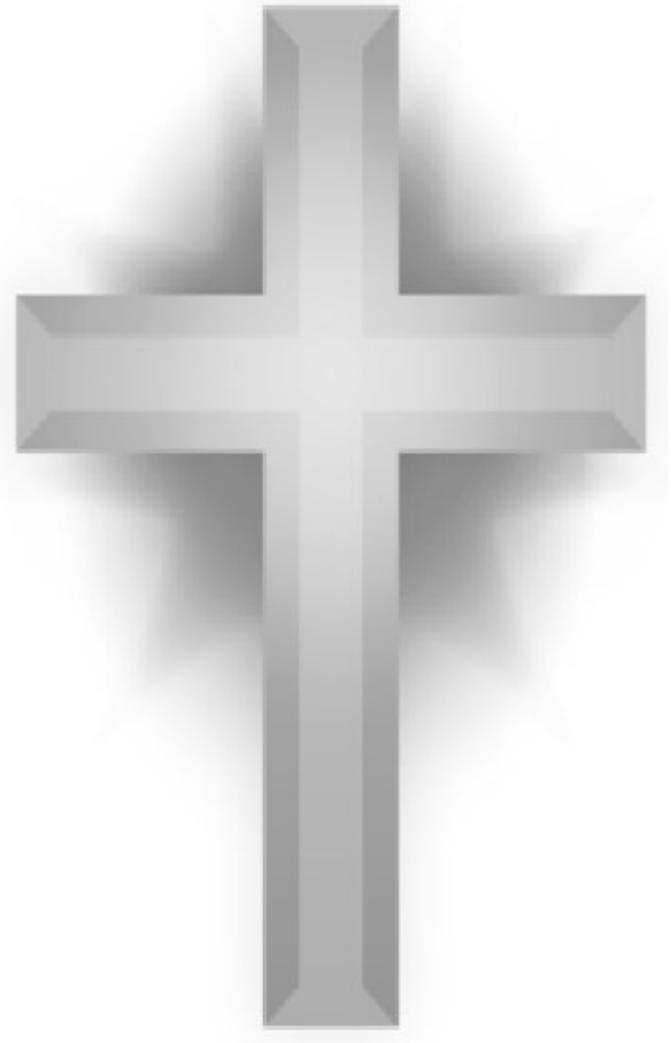
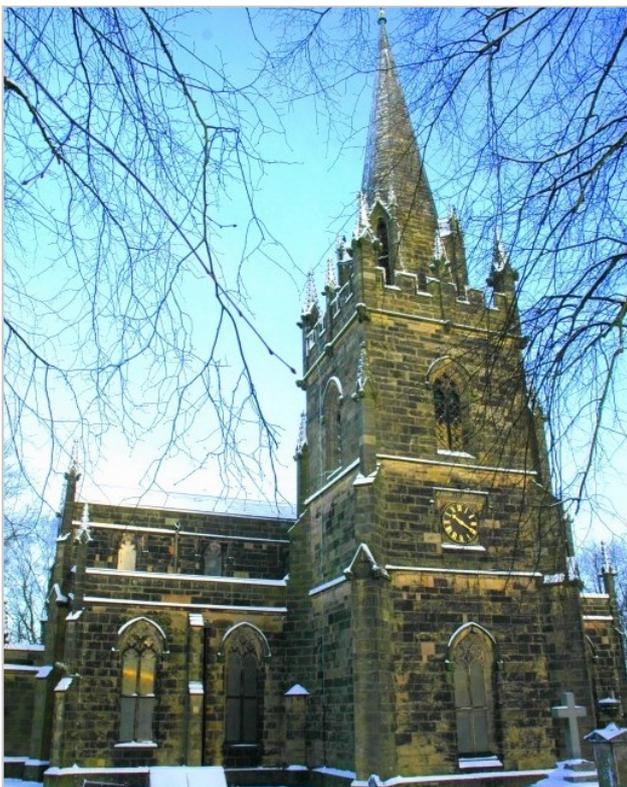


THE BEACON

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS, SEDGLEY
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50p
MAY 2017

WHO's WHO

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Worship Leader	Suzanne Bradley	01902 880055
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
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

DIARY DATES FOR MAY 2017

Dates for Diary

Mothers' Union

May 2nd - 2.15pm - Communion - Just another Table - Joyce Bush

May 16th - 7.30pm - Care At The End Of Life - Revd David Knight

Funerals

April 5th - June Ann Baker - Gornal Wood Crem.

April 19th - Christine Chadwick - Dudley Cemetery

Flower Rota - May 2017

May 7th - In Memory of May Hackett - Daughter Pamela Allan

May 14th - Vacant

May 21st - Dorothy Inett

May 28th - Mike Edwards

Letter from the Bishop of Worcester

By Bishop John Bishop of Worcester

Thy Kingdom Come

From Ascension Day on 25 May to Pentecost on 4 June, parishes across the Diocese will be joining with Christians worldwide in a ten-day wave of prayer for the coming of God's Kingdom. This is the second year of the initiative from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and this year it's become a global movement with Christians of several denominations around the world praying together for more people to come to know Jesus. It hardly needs saying that this fits well with our Kingdom People Vision.

Throughout our own diocese, many of us will be getting involved with prayer events planned in deaneries and parishes. We hope lots of people will also join us in pilgrimage – walking from the four compass points to form the shape of a cross as we converge at Worcester Cathedral for a service of praise and celebration at 7pm on Pentecost Eve.

Christians in the north of our diocese will have their own event as well - at 2.30pm on Pentecost itself. People from all denominations will be gathering in Priory Ruins to pray for particularly for Dudley Borough. At the centre of this is prayer. Together we'd like to cover the ten days in a wave of 24/7 prayer and hope as many people as possible will join in and 'pledge to pray'.

As Archbishop Justin says: "In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities... I cannot remember in my life anything that I've been involved in where I have sensed so clearly the work of the Spirit."

I pray that the evidence of this being a great work of the Spirit will be very clear to us in this Diocese.

+John

Holy Days and commemorations for May

- 1 Philip and James, Apostles
- 2 Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 373
- 4 English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era
- 8 Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c.1417
- 12 Gregory Dix, Priest, Monk, Scholar, 1952
- 14 Matthias the Apostle
- 16 Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer, 1877
- 19 Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, Restorer of Monastic Life, 988
- 20 Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804
- 21 Helena, Protector of the Holy Places, 330
- 24 John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists, Hymn Writers, 1791 and 1788
- 25 The Venerable Bede, Monk at Jarrow, Scholar, Historian, 735
- 25 Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, 709
- 26 Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605
- 26 John Calvin, Reformer, 1564
- 26 Philip Neri, Founder of the Oratorians, Spiritual Guide, 1595
- 28 Lanfranc, Prior of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Scholar, 1089
- 30 Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906
- 30 Joan of Arc, Visionary, 1431
- 30 Polo Kivebulaya, Priest, Evangelist in Central Africa, 1933
- 31 The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

Archdeacons' visitations

The Archdeacons will be coming to a parish near you soon!

During May, the Archdeacons will meet with churchwardens from each of our parishes, to find out how things are going in their parish, hear encouraging stories about local mission and ministry and identify areas where more support might be needed.

Archdeacon of Worcester, Robert Jones said: "In each deanery, we go to a central venue and spend time talking to the churchwardens from each of the churches. There's an element of accountability to the meeting, and the wardens should have discussed some of the questions with their PCC beforehand, but it also gives us a chance to show our care and appreciation of the work they do. Churchwardens do an amazing and often unsung job – the visitations give us the chance to understand what's going on at ground level and to ask 'how are you?'"

Whenever possible, the Rural Dean and Lay Chair of the deanery are also present at the venue, welcoming churchwardens and having their own conversations. This helps to build a network across the deanery and promote a sense of togetherness.

Nikki Groarke, Archdeacon of Dudley, said: "Visitations are a great opportunity to spend time with our wonderful churchwardens and find out what's happening in their churches. I love hearing their hopes and aspirations and helping them to connect into the Kingdom People vision. These days really help to build stronger relationships between us."

Once all the visitations have been completed, there is a special service in each Archdeaconry, where the Churchwardens are admitted for the year.

Acts for Everyone

At the end of May comes Ascension Day (25th), a bit of a neglected festival in the Church. As Luke reminds us in Acts 1:1-11, it was the opportunity for Jesus to commission His disciples His witnesses in the world:

‘But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ (Acts 1:8).

What is a witness?

a witness knows Jesus:

A credible witness speaks of what they know personally. The disciples had spent 40 days with Jesus and now they were called to share that experience and relationship with others. What is my story of how Jesus is alive in my life?

a witness grows in Jesus:

Jesus told them to wait for the gift of the Spirit to empower them as witnesses. ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.’ (4). The Spirit equips us to display Jesus’ character (fruit) and enables us to witness (gifts). How does our life demonstrate the difference Jesus makes?

a witness goes for Jesus:

They were called to witness for Jesus in ever-increasing circles of influence. For us, this means family and friends, workplace and community, and the wider world. Where is God calling us to serve Him?

The story is told of Jesus arriving in heaven after the Ascension, being welcomed by the angels. Gabriel asked Jesus, ‘what is your plan for everyone to know your love?’ Jesus replied, ‘I have given my disciples the task of carrying the message into all the world.’ Gabriel’s face dropped, ‘These are unpredictable men, what if they fail? After a pause Jesus answered, ‘There is no other plan!’



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Annual Meeting 2nd April 2017

To: Chairman of District Church Council, Mr John Anderson

Subject: Presentation to John Dillworth on his retirement from Stewardship Recording Duties

Dear John.

When I attended the General Meeting on Sunday 2nd April I was delighted to be honoured with a presentation to mark the Council's appreciation of the work that I have been doing, in connection with the recording of donations from all the wider "Church family". These include the many who are unable to attend services, but continue their generous, financial support from their retirement homes, invariably increasing their donations, if possible. In addition, since the Gift Aid Relief Scheme was introduced six years ago (replacing, of course, the earlier less-flexible Covenant Scheme) those whose donations qualify have allowed us to reclaim any tax paid on their donations, thereby increasing further the income we receive as recoverable tax.

As most supporters know, I have now completed the hand-over of Gift Aid related donation records and have modified the spreadsheets to maximise tax recovery from all Gift Aid income. I am modestly proud to have done this using skills obtained as a Chartered Engineer and this has surprised a number of supporters who had assumed that I was some sort of accountant. I am (again modestly) proud that my development of the recording systems has saved our Church considerable sums by not having to pay software consultants' fees and charges, charges by others who have offered services in software development of the recording systems and direct charges requested by the Diocesan Officers who offered to do it for us, but for which we should have had to pay, since the Diocesan Gift Aid help team were no longer allowed to do this as a free service and were obliged to recover their costs on a sliding scale, dependant on how financially "well off" the Board of Finance assessed us to be as a deanery normally able to pay the "Parish Share" in full.

On this basis we were regarded as able to pay the full share and assist less fortunate Deaneries, which needed help from so called more affluent ones, like ours. The assessment rules have already been modified to reflect the more recent changes of the rules determining the “well-off-ness” of more populous, residential urban deaneries with smaller depopulated rural ones. However, more changes are imminent as attempts are made to set up a ‘fairer’ system which may or may not improve the situation as far as our local Deaneries are concerned.

Now, having had this opportunity to ‘blow my own trumpet’ (albeit ‘modestly’ but ‘proudly’ again!) I wish to convey my sincere thanks to all those concerned with the idea of a presentation, in appreciation of my efforts. I have to say that I was somewhat embarrassed when the Chairman interrupted his reports, by calling me to come forward to receive the Council’s gift. I was not entirely surprised to be presented with a nice, bottle-shaped gift-wrapped, present which I looked forward to unwrapping when I got home. However, I was astounded when I removed the wrappings to find, not the expected ‘nice bottle of Aussie Shiraz’ but an even larger bottle of my favourite late-night, helps-me-to-sleep!” single-malt whisky, namely Glenmorangie. So my particular thanks are extended to Mr. Chairman for his brilliant choice and congratulations to him and his under-cover spies and informers who came up with this superb gift.

Finally, the supplementary gift of the lead-rosette paperweight and new-five-pound-note-tamer was also appreciated, but that is another story, which I will keep for later, for anyone who would like to know what’s behind it.

John D.

MOTHERS' UNION

Revd Canon Judith Oliver spoke at our evening meeting in March where she reflected on the life of Jesus' mother Mary. We thought of how this young girl, not yet married, must have felt on being told she was to have a baby. Frightened, unbelieving, wondering what people would think. Then to be told that this baby was special and would be the Saviour of the world. Why had she been chosen? And yet Mary bore Jesus and, with Joseph, loved and cared for him. A quiet, but inwardly strong person. What did she think of her son as He began his ministry, the miracles He performed, His teachings? Love, support, and concern, as all mothers do for their children. Then that awful journey to the cross, her son's work done. The pain and suffering she bore as Jesus looked down from the cross. This remarkable girl, woman, mother.

'Even more surprises on the way' was Mary Wear's talk at our April afternoon meeting. The dictionary definition of a surprise is 'something that takes us unawares', 'something unexpected'. They are often happy experiences, sometimes sad and they can be amazing. Mary shared some of the surprises she had had in her life and interspersed these with prayers.

As many of you are aware the members at St Mary's, Hurst Hill have been unable to continue as a branch due to the age of their members. The branch has worked hard over the years supporting the Mothers' Union aims and projects, and have been sorely missed in the Deanery.

There will be a Service of Closure at St Mary's at 2pm on Thursday 18th May and I hope that as many as possible of you will give your support by attending.

Dates

- 2nd May 2.15pm Communion followed by 'Just another Table', Joyce Bush
- 16th May 7.30pm Care at the end of Life, Revd David Knight
- 18th May 2.00pm Closure Service, St Mary's, Hurst Hill

By the time the magazine goes to press we shall have held our Lenten Collection and Coffee Morning for the Women's Refuge, but I thought many of you would be interested to know about the Bishop of Dudley's Open Garden, which is raising funds for the Three Choirs Festival and CHADD'S women's refuge services in Dudley.

The Bishop of Dudley

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Saturday 13th May
11.30am – 4.00pm

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Children under 12 years free

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Articles for the April magazine need to be sent to:

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by

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Kirchentag 2017

Parishes from Worcester will be travelling to Germany for this year's special Kirchentag.

500 years ago Martin Luther wrote the most explosive academic work ever published. He posted his 95 theses on forgiveness on the door of the castle church in his university town of Wittenberg. The eventual result was the massive split in the medieval church into Catholic and Protestant, political convulsions that reshaped Europe, and religious and philosophical changes that led to the modern world.

The commemoration of this event is very important for our partner church in Central Germany, our EKM / Magdeburg link. All the significant sites of Luther's life and the birth of the Reformation are part of their church area. The biggest focus of attention will be the Church Celebration (Kirchentag) which happens every two years, drawing roughly between 100,000 and 200,000 Christians. In 2003 this became a fully ecumenical celebration.

Groups of Worcester parishes will be spending time with their partner parishes in Magdeburg and a group of individuals is travelling to Berlin for the central Kirchentag celebration. Bishop John will be helping the EKM kick off their celebrations on Ascension Day in Magdeburg, as he preaches at an open air service outside the cathedral. He and Archdeacon Robert Jones will also be helping lead a service of Evensong the following night in Magdeburg cathedral.

Lonely as a cloud...

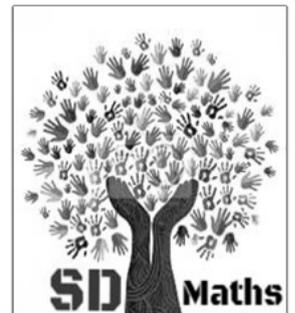
Half a million people, aged over 60, can often go an entire week without meeting anyone. In all, an estimated 1.2million older people in England are 'chronically lonely', which means they have been lonely for many years. Such were the findings of recent research by the charity Age UK. It warns that this hidden epidemic of loneliness is putting pressure on the health services, as lonely people are more likely to develop heart problems, depression and dementia.

Councillor Izzy Seccombe, chairman of the Local Government Association's Community Wellbeing Board, warns: 'Loneliness and social isolation have a major impact on people's health and well-being. Research shows loneliness can be more harmful than smoking 15 cigarettes a day.'

The Bible has a beautiful description of the kind of friendships God intends for us: 'have ... sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling.' (1 Peter 3:8-9 ESV)



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How can we best help children with little hope?

There is an ongoing debate among many Christian relief workers as to whether impoverished and orphaned children in developing countries are best helped in their development by (a) staying with their grandparents or other relatives (all usually equally impoverished), (b) staying in purpose built Children's Homes looking after perhaps 40 to 60 children, or (c) being in smaller family-size units of say 10 or more children where there are at least two adult supervisors, perhaps a married couple, who can act as proxy-parents. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) would say the ideal is (c).

The first of these, (a), is frequently of no advantage to the child because s/he becomes yet an extra mouth to be fed in a home often without adequate nourishment already.

The problem with (c) is finding couples willing to look after so many children and who also have adequate space for them to sleep and live. If there are, say, up to 20 children in such a home, this is a considerable expense in terms of food, clothing and accommodation. Many countries find they are unable to provide sufficient proxy-parents able and willing to take on this role, largely because of inadequate financial support structures.

In such circumstances (b) becomes an opportunity, although the funding issue is equally relevant. While children in such Homes may not get as much individual adult attention as in (a) or (c), they usually do get the opportunity to make friends who have gone through similar experiences of losing their parents. Where else would one hear such conversations as in a Home for orphaned children in one of the Southern World countries:

“How old were you when your mother died?” “Did she take long to die?” “Was she in much pain?” They then realise they are not the only ones to have experienced such traumatic events.

Part of our Christian calling is loving and helping others, whether these be children overseas in institutional homes or the needy youngsters in our own back streets. Rhena Taylor, founder of Outlook, once said to a couple, “When you are surrounded by an ocean of need, the Lord does not expect you to drain the ocean single-handedly but to take out your bucketful.” The Lord smiles over every child loved and cared for – a very precious bucketful.

A million pensioners soon at risk from scams

Nearly one million people will soon be on so-called ‘suckers lists’, which means they are considered vulnerable to scams, according to a lead researcher for trading standards. The majority of victims are elderly and live alone.

The Government currently holds about 300,000 people on such a list, and expects this to treble by 2019. The list is made up of repeat victims who may have responded to mail scams, fake competition and lotteries.

Professor Keith Brown of the Chartered Trading Standards Institute, warns that the growing list of vulnerable people could soon represent one of the biggest crime waves the UK has ever seen, with a staggering £10 billion being stolen each year.

While the government looks into measures that can be taken at top level, what can we, as a church family, do to look after our elderly and vulnerable? Any ideas? How about a monthly ‘surgery’ at the church where old people can ask advice about offers they have seen?

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Ladies Society - “Saz’s Ceramics”

An intriguing title – but who was Saz? I thought to myself is it Sarah? On reading through the leaflet that she gave us I was right!

Saz began her adult life as an English teacher and then joined adult classes Ceramics. This was way back in the 90’s. At first she went for “Relaxation”, but soon realised that this was what she wanted to do. As you all know the Red House Glass Cone came to an end. Saz offered to buy their now redundant “Kiln”. This became her now full time career and she works permanently at the Red House Glass Cone, running weekly classes in the various skills needed. Saturdays are “drop in” days where you can go to try your skills before you book to join the more intensive courses.

There is a class the first Thursday in every month from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. They also half day courses ie three hours where you choose to paint a shape using a combination of specialist of glazes, or a one day course where you could learn even more about Ceramics.

I would just like to say “Thank You” for a most enlightening talk. It’s wonderful to be able to make your career about something you really enjoy doing.

I will close with an apology for my “Non-appearing” article in the April magazine. One was sent, but our new computer had developed a mind of its own! So the report on the quiz and the bring-and-buy sale must be floating around in the “Ether somewhere!” I Hope for better luck this time!

The next meeting is April 18th to see “Anything Goes” at the Mill Theatre; I’m not able to go, so I hope you enjoy it. There is no meeting in May so I hope see you for our annual summer outing to Baggeridge to enjoy a lovely meal. The last meeting before the Summer Break is on July 3rd and is entitled “The Coseley Tragedy” I hope to see you there.

Molly Taft.

Christian Aid Week 2017

An article about this year's Christian Aid Week.

Sixty years ago, a generation of Christians decided they would not stand by whilst people suffered in refugee camps amidst the aftermath of the Second World War. Inspired by the teaching of Jesus Christ, they could not sit back while their neighbours suffered. They shared Jesus' outrage over injustice and were prepared to do something about it.

That dedication and generosity led to the creation of Christian Aid Week, which today unites 20,000 churches across the country that come together to achieve incredible things to continue to support our global neighbours in need, who are suffering through no fault of their own.

Today, tens of millions of people – fathers, mothers and children - across the globe are still fleeing their homes, and making dangerous journeys in search of safety. Christian Aid is not turning its back now, and continues to support refugees around the world, who are fleeing their homes due to conflict, war and disaster.

While the majority of today's refugees seek sanctuary in poor countries, in 2015 some one million people crossed into Europe. With borders in Europe now closed, thousands of desperate refugees are finding themselves stranded in countries including Greece and Serbia – and in need of urgent help.

Nejebbar, from Afghanistan, fled her homeland after the Taliban announced they would kill anyone who worked for the government, like her husband Noor. They eventually sought refuge in Greece with their children, after a treacherous journey across the Mediterranean in a small rubber dinghy.

The young family have left their home, family and friends behind, and now live with no certainty on their future, especially that of their children.

With the help of you, our supporters, Christian Aid and its global partners continue to provide support for refugees, like Nejebbar and Noor, with essentials including, food, shelter and job skills training, as well as advocating for policies to protect them and help them on the ground.

You can help to change the lives of refugees fleeing conflict and crisis this Christian Aid Week by donating online at www.caweek.org calling 08080 006 006, or texting 'GIVE' to 70040 to give £5.

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John Calvin, Reformer, 1564

On May 26th the Church of England recognises the life of John Calvin.

Born on July 10, 1509, in Noyon, Picardy, France, John Calvin was a law student at the University of Orléans when he first joined the cause of the Reformation. In 1536, he published the landmark text *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, an early attempt to standardize the theories of Protestantism. Calvin's religious teachings emphasized the sovereignty of the scriptures and divine predestination—a doctrine holding that God chooses those who will enter Heaven based His omnipotence and grace.

Calvin lived in Geneva briefly, until anti-Protestant authorities in 1538 forced him to leave. He was invited back again in 1541, and upon his return from Germany, where he had been living, he became an important spiritual and political leader. Calvin used Protestant principles to establish a religious government; and in 1555, he was given absolute supremacy as leader in Geneva.

As Martin Luther's successor as the preeminent Protestant theologian, Calvin was known for an intellectual, unemotional approach to faith that provided Protestantism's theological underpinnings, whereas Luther brought passion and populism to his religious cause.

While instituting many positive policies, Calvin's government also punished "impiety" and dissent against his particularly spare vision of Christianity with execution. In the first five years of his rule in Geneva, 58 people were executed and 76 exiled for their religious beliefs. Calvin allowed no art other than music, and even that could not involve instruments. Under his rule, Geneva became the centre of Protestantism, and sent out pastors to the rest of Europe, creating Presbyterianism in Scotland, the Puritan Movement in England and the Reformed Church in the Netherlands



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The Sedgley Educational Trust is established to advance education, including religious education, in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England in the area of benefit: that being the ecclesiastical parishes of All Saints', Sedgley, St Mary the Virgin, Sedgley and St Chad's, Coseley.

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,
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Just Thoughts

A wise person knows that there's something to be learned from everyone.

Holding on to anger is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die.

Don't depend too much on anyone in this world because even your shadow leaves you when you are in darkness.

A clever person solves problems a wise person avoids them.

If you want something you've never had, then you've got to do something you've never done.

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving.

Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere,

Wise souls speak loudly in silence.

Laughing is the best medicine, but if you laugh without any reason you need medicine.

One day or Day One. You need to decide where your future lies.

We are made wise not by the recollections of our past, but by the responsibility for our future.

Be happy. It's one way of being wise.

Life is too short to be serious all the time. So, if you can't laugh at yourself, call someone who laughs at and with you.

Be strong enough to stand alone, be strong enough to stand apart, but be wise enough to stand together when the time comes.

The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; and the realist adjusts the sails.

Work like you don't need the money, Love like you've never been hurt. Dance like nobody's watching.

To enjoy good health, to bring true happiness to one's family, to bring peace to all, one must first discipline and control one's own mind. If a person can control their mind to enlightenment and wisdom; virtue will naturally come to you.

It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.

There are three methods by which we learn wisdom. First by reflection, which is the noblest; Second, by imitation, which is the easiest, and the third is by experience, which can be the bitterest.

Talent is God given. Be thankful. Fame is man-given. Be grateful. Conceit is self-given. Be careful.

Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold.

Discipline is the bridge between goals and achievement.

Compiled by David Melhuish

WWI TIMELINE - EVENTS OF 1917

May 1917

- 2nd Third Battle of Scarpe 1917 (Arras) begins.
Battle of Bullecourt begins (ends 17th).
- 7th First night raid on London. Single aeroplane by moonlight.
- 10th Major-General J. Pershing appointed to command U.S. Expeditionary Force.
- 12th 10th Battle of the Isonzo begins (ends June 8th).
- 14th German airship 'L.-22' destroyed in North Sea by British Warships.
- 15th Action between Austrian and British Forces in Straits of Otranto: 14 British drifters sunk.
- 18th Compulsory Service Act becomes law in U.S.A.
- 25th First great aeroplane raid on England (Kent & Folkstone) to cause heavy casualties. Total 290, over half civilians.
- 26th British Hospital Ship 'Dover Castle' sunk in the Mediterranean.

Major Battles:ARRAS, 9 April - 16 May

As a diversion from the imminent French Nivelle Offensive, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand troops attacked Arras. One of the objectives was the strategically important **Vimy Ridge**. The first days were successful, but as so often on the Western Front, the offensive slowed and only continued for political reasons.

Hill 145 was the highest part of Vimy Ridge and the objective for the Canadian Corps. Careful preparations, accurate artillery fire and tenacious fighting gave them success. They suffered 10,000 casualties - half that of the Germans.

In 1915 the French lost 150,000 casualties there.

The 'Blood Tub' - the Australian name for the battle at Bullecourt, which saw a casualty rate of 66 per cent!

The average number of **British Army casualties for each day at Arras was 4,175** - the highest rate they had experienced.

The Royal Flying Corps lost 275 aircraft and 207 men in April. They were carrying out valuable reconnaissance at Arras. At one point in 1917, the average life expectancy was 11 days for a British pilot.

Votes For War.

Following a speech by President Woodrow Wilson, the US Congress voted to join the war on 6 April. (Senate = 82 - 6; House of Representatives = 373 - 50. 24 million men registered for the draft in America; almost a quarter of the population.

American Beauties & Liberty Cabbages.

With war declared, Americans turned against anything Germanic. Sales of sauerkraut collapsed and it was renamed 'liberty cabbage'. Bismarck doughnuts were renamed 'American beauties' and German shepherd dogs became Alsatians. In an echo of what happened in Germany years later, German books were taken out of libraries and burnt.

Rosemary Moss

Choirboy and Angel reunited on Easter Day after 69 years

A lady who was once a member of **All Saints' Sunday School** has been reunited with two other former members, after 69 years.

Quite by accident **Eva Wixon (nee Cox)** met **Ken and Ivy Slater** when she attended Evensong at All Saints' on Easter Day 2017.

Back in 1948 they all took part in the **Sunday School Nativity Play** together, and a group photograph was taken. Eva played one of the angels - we've now sent the photo to Eva and hope she'll be able to spot herself and tell us where she is!



She had a very strong connection with All Saints' then - she was christened, confirmed, met and married her husband Philip Wixon (also in the photo playing a shepherd) at All Saints'.

Sadly Philip died recently. Eva now lives in Telford and decided to revisit the church she knew so well when she was younger on Easter Day.

The former Sunday School children had a good chat about life at All Saints', and about what it was like to be children in Sedgley in the late 1940s. One topic was our vicar in those days, **Revd Bill Sargeant**, a larger-than-life character who was a former padre to the Royal Marines, and who took part in the 1944 D Day landings.

A pensioner's regular morning prayer

Guide me O Thou great Redeemer
I have lost my front door key,
I have searched and looked around me
Where it is, I cannot see.
I need guidance, I need patience,
Just to find my key again.
Just to find my key again.

Now I've found it, I'm so grateful
for God's help in my distress.
But I now can't find my glasses
Oh, I am in such a mess.
Where've they gone to? Where've they gone to?
I can't see to look for them
I can't see to look for them

Oh! I've found them in the bathroom
Underneath my shaving brush
That is where I must have put them
last night - I was in a rush
I can see again, I can see again
But I've lost my mobile phone
But I've lost my mobile phone

But with God- given calm I found it
On the plant pot in the hall
Keeping cool, avoiding temper
Means that I have found them all
Lord, I thank you, yes I thank you
Now please help me find my hat
Now please help me find my hat

And so the story goes!!

Dan was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business. When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father dies, he decided he needed a wife with which to share his fortune.

One evening at an investment meeting he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. "I may look like just an ordinary man," he said to her, "but in just a few years my father will die, and I'll inherit £200 million." Impressed, the woman obtained his business card and three days later, she became his stepmother.

Women are so much better at financial planning than men.

© **Tony Hart, April 2017**

What God is like

A Sunday school teacher began her lesson with a question, 'Boys and girls, what do we know about God?'

A hand went up. 'He is an artist!' said a little boy. Startled, the teacher asked him why he thought that.

'You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven...'



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