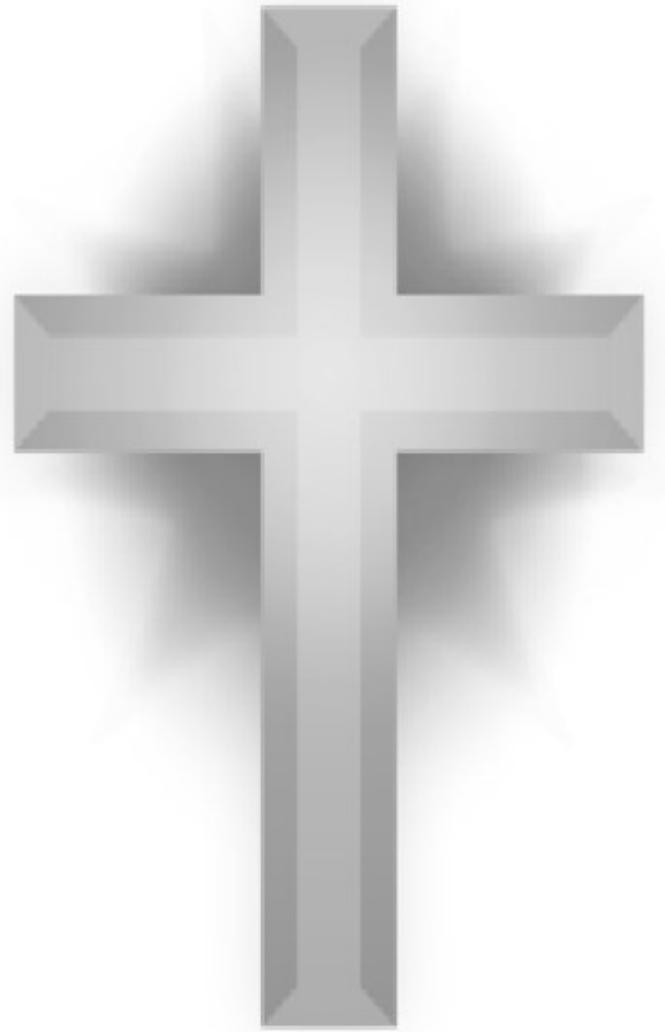
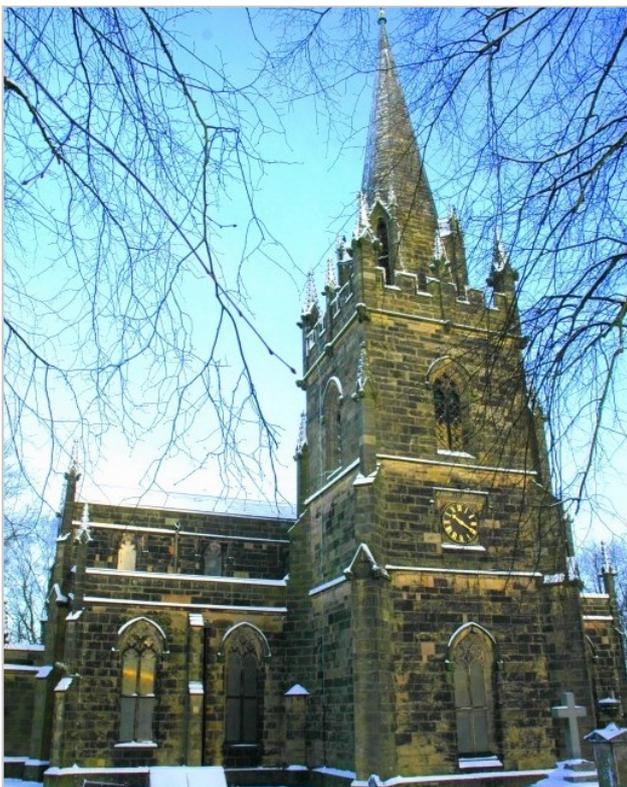


THE BEACON

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



50p
APRIL 2017

WHO's WHO

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Pastoral Care	Tracey Bate	01902 680727
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 APRIL 2017

Dates for Diary

Ladies Society

April 3rd Saz's Ceramics

April 26th The Mill Theatre 'Anything Goes'

Mothers' Union

April 4th - 2.30pm - Even More Surprises On The Way - Mary Wear

April 25th - 7.30pm - Doing A Lumley - Pauline Turner

April 28th - 10.00am – 12noon Lenten Collection and Coffee Morning

Genealogy

April 27th - Meeting Room - 7pm

Holy Week

Monday 10th April Team Service @ St Andrews 7.30pm with Jan

Tuesday 11th April Team Service @ All Saints 7.30pm Wordsley Team

Wednesday 12th April Team Service @ St Peters 7.30pm David Knight

Thursday 13th April All Saints & St Andrews @ All Saints Lyn Rowson @7.30pm.

Thursday 13th April St Peters 7.30pm Judith Oliver

Friday 14th April St Andrews 2pm with Jan

Friday 14th April St Peters 2pm with Suzanne

Friday 14th April All Saints 7.30pm with Jan

Saturday 15th April Team Service at All Saints 9pm with Jan

Funerals

March 7th - Mary Emily Griffith - All Saints'

March 17th - Alan William Gallis - Gornal Wood Crematorium

A letter from the Archdeacon of Worcester for April editions of parish magazines

I recently attended one of the so-called Way Stations of the Reformation. This is a roving exhibition commemorating the Reformation, surprisingly on a bus, which is being sent from Germany around over sixty different significant cities in Europe, returning there for the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther in October later this year. The theme of the Way Station was Reformation: Then and Now.

The question being asked was what needed reforming back then in the sixteenth century, and was that, in a sense, 'job done' forever. If not, what needs reforming today if the Church is to be *semper reformanda*, always reforming? In others words, did enough change already happen back then, or is it something we live with constantly. Thinking back to the recent General Synod it is clear that this debate is still alive and well.

Martin Luther was a German monk. When he decided to challenge what he saw as shortcomings, even betrayals, of the gospel in the church, he never intended to create a new church. He wanted to heal it and take it back to its roots. With the sale of indulgences he saw the danger of clergy become merchants of grace, grace itself becoming some sort of commodity which could be acquired. So his conclusion was that it's all about grace, God's free gift, because that is what God is like.

He soon discovered all sorts of unintended consequences in his Reformation. It is easier to set off events, rather than stop or control them. His Reformation reminded the church of the primacy of God's grace revealed in Scripture, but it marked years of division and even war, and the raising of destructive human passions where Christians could not even see each other as belonging to the same Church.

It is easy to divide, but it is harder to reconcile. So we may, like Luther, get the basic message right, but we need to return constantly to what that message means as it works out in practice.

You could say that it has taken the churches 500 years to get back to the position of recognising that they belong in the same church. This is why the archbishop of Canterbury keeps going on about learning the art of good disagreement – church history contains too many examples of the bad. We are firmly placed in this world but are fired by a vision of another world. We live on earth, but seek the kingdom of heaven. This other-worldliness must not lead us astray into ways of behaviour which actually deny the nature of Christ we are called to imitate. In that sense we are always in need of reform, *semper reformanda*, the good news being that our God is always the same: He loves us anyway.

Have you thought about becoming a volunteer chaplain for Faith at Work in Worcestershire?

By Sam Setchell Communications Officer

Workplace Chaplaincy has been a feature of the ministry of our churches for quite a while. This world-facing engagement seeks to understand the issues of the contemporary workplace and economy and to draw alongside those at work, offering care and concern in the name of Jesus. It is about being Kingdom People, building trust and relationships. Faith at Work in Worcestershire (FWW) works with parishes and churches of all denominations to recruit, train and support volunteer Associate Chaplains – lay and ordained. There are now 30 such chaplains, mostly organised in local teams in Redditch, Kidderminster, Stourport and Worcester.

All Associate Chaplains are commissioned by their sending congregation and, where possible, their local Churches Together (pictured), as this ministry is always undertaken ecumenically. In this way, not only is the Chaplain supported and encouraged, but the wider congregation is drawn into being part of the ministry, particularly through prayer for the Chaplains, and for those at work they visit.

A short training course is planned for the early summer, starting on May 3rd, for anyone interested in finding out more. See www.faithatwork.org.uk for details.

Archdeacons' visitations

By Sam Setchell

The Archdeacons visitations take place in May.

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.

Please pray for the Archdeacons during the visitation period and for all of our churchwardens.

Message from Minister Jan

As lent begins to draw to a close and we prepare to walk Holy Week whether you decided to "Give up" or "Take up"? Whichever you felt was right for you, I hope it's been a time to take stock and listen to God.

Lent is all about preparing us for the glory of Easter. From the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday when large crowds sang and shouted Hosanna, through to Maundy Thursday when Judas made that terrible decision to betray his friend Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

Then the horror of Good Friday when the same crowds shouted "crucify" and our Lord, saviour, friend went to Calvary and died upon the cross to forgive our sins and give us the promise of everlasting life. I urge you if possible to walk the week together, to share the triumph, the despair, then the wonderful joy on Easter day of singing Jesus Christ is risen today Halleluiah.

Easter is a time of new life and new beginnings as the Gornal & Sedgley Team we eagerly await our new team vicar Revd Catherine to begin a new chapter, may we welcome her with joy.

May God bless you all this Eastertide.

Jan

POTS OF DAFFODILS

Plea for anyone who intends to throw their pots of daffodils out after flowering, I'm willing to take them and plant them around the church again; this would be the third year I have done it. Previous plantings are in the borders on Dean Street side and are looking good.

Mike "daffodil" Edwards.

A MESSAGE FROM THE VERY REVD PETER ATKINSON

The Easter narratives in the four Gospels are widely different from each other, and describe some very different occasions; yet they share a family resemblance. In all of them, the Lord comes to the disciples unexpectedly and often, to begin with, unrecognizably. Mary Magdalene thinks he is the gardener. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus take him for a fellow-traveller; converse with him, and invite him in to supper. Only when he breaks bread in that old familiar way do they see who it is. The disciples out on the lake see a figure on the shore, and do not immediately recognize him. There is that about his appearance that does not at once disclose his identity; it is as if shutters have to fall from their eyes before they realize the truth.

Perhaps you have had disclosures of the divine presence that have taken you by surprise. Perhaps it has been a moment of recognition in the course of a service: words you have known for years suddenly coming to life in a new way. Perhaps it has been a book, or someone speaking about their faith, which has illuminated your own faith from an unexpected angle. Perhaps it has been some life-experience, good or bad, which has brought home the presence of God with a surprising power and freshness. All of these moments, we may say, are extensions of the resurrection appearances: the risen Lord taking his place in our lives, at first unnoticed or unrecognized; then, marvellously, making himself known.

In so many of the Easter narratives in the four Gospels, the risen Lord comes to his disciples in ordinary, domestic settings. There is no fanfare, no dazzling appearance in the Temple or in the Governor's palace. Rather, he comes to them in the upper room where they had had supper; the garden where the Lord was buried; the road to Emmaus, trodden so many times; the lakeside, the daily place of work for so many of the disciples before Jesus summoned them. The risen Lord needs to be present in our daily lives if he is to be present at all.

We cannot imprison him in church, as if there were no connection to the supper table, the garden, the road, the workplace.

Having said that, it is in the Holy Communion that our fellowship with the risen Lord is most clearly expressed. 'He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread', says St Luke, speaking of the disciples at Emmaus. That phrase, 'the breaking of bread', became one of the first titles of the Holy Communion, as we find it in the New Testament. That is where we meet him; and if we truly meet him there, we will continue to meet him today, tomorrow, every day; and he will continue to bless our lives with his living and life-giving presence.

Palm Sunday: Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to his own people in their capital city, and yet he came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into his path. They knew his reputation as a healer, and welcomed him. But sadly the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.



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For more information or to make a personal donation visit admin@acts435.org.uk

Tony Hart – March 17

Some miscellaneous observations on our Christian walk....

The trouble is, we won't let God help us. - George MacDonald

Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position. - Anon

Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible. - Anon

Maundy Thursday – time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. (see John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

Good Friday – Jesus and the thieves on the Cross

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself' (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who was crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: 'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.' He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

So - what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: 'this man has done nothing wrong.' He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom', the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; 'Today you will be with me in paradise.' Jesus used the picture of a walled garden to help the man understand his promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want him to 'remember' us when He comes into his kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? 'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.' (1 Peter 3:18).

Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man did rise?

At the end of St Luke's Gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: "You crucified Jesus, but God raised him up!"

How did they know this? Because of experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So did they pretend they had seen Him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds. He recovered in the tomb, and escaped. The disciples nursed Him back to health. But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit.

If the disciples had been hiding Jesus, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life-changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: "He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: 'Follow thou me', and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is." Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter

Flower Rota - April 2017

April 2nd - LENT - Maureen Iddles - porch

April 9th - LENT - Kathryn Osborne - porch

April 16th - EASTER - Frances Barnett

April 23rd - Vacant

April 30th - Stella Hughes, Pam Garrington and Jean Turner

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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:

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by

Friday 21st April

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

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Mothers' Union

Joan Sullivan shared her story of 'The World Peace Flame' with us in March. In 1999 friends of Joan's at Dru Yoga Centre in North Wales were discussing world peace. They had worked in war zones, such as Bosnia, helping people heal emotional trauma and with the Millennium approaching wanted to take on a truly global initiative.

One of the friends, called Mansukha, told them about when he lived in Kenya and his parents took him to visit a family in an outlying homestead. Unknown to them Mau Mau guerrillas had raided the place killing everybody, even the animals. They tended to the dead and returned home where his mother lit the family diva (a small butter-lamp). Mansukha fell asleep, but remembered waking several times and seeing his mother tending the flame and praying silently.

He never forgot the soft golden flame flickering in the dark as a soothing mantle of peace settled over him. Mansukha's mother told him that 'whenever you are tired, ill or overcome with sadness, light a flame. It will bring healing to your soul and peace to your mind.' From this came the group's resolve to have flames lit in each continent and brought back to the UK where they would be united to become the World Peace Flame on 31st July. Seeing as this was decided in April they didn't have long to make it happen!

On 31st July, with the help of air forces across the continents, flames arrived in North Wales from Europe, Africa, America, Canada, Australia, India and The Middle East. The African Flame was lit in the house in Kenya where Mansukha had lived as a child and the flame from India was lit from the eternal flame at the Gandhi Memorial in Delhi.

All the flames were transferred to Olympic style torches and taken into the Conference Hall at Bangor University where more than six hundred people witnessed the coming together of the flames.

The World Peace Flame had been born. Since then the flame has been presented to many people and places including the Pope, Westminster Abbey and The Houses of Parliament and burns somewhere in every country of the world. Through this truly inspirational project a booklet was produced for use with children in schools. At the present time this is being updated and once completed it is our aim to provide copies for use in our local schools and in schools across the diocese.

Thank you Joan for making us aware of the amazing vision and determination this group of people had; they were not daunted by the task but had tremendous faith.

We held our Wave of Prayer service last month. This was an opportunity for members to remember, and hold in their prayers, our link dioceses of Port Elizabeth in South Africa, West Ankola in Uganda, The Nomadic Mission and Ekiti-Kwara in Nigeria and The Episcopal Church in the Philippines. Thanks to Jan for her address.

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 Friday 28th April (please note this is a change of date) when Karen Tunnock will receive the items.

Dates

4th April 2.30pm - Even more surprises on the way, Mary Wear

25th April 7.30pm - Doing a Lumley, Pauline Turner

28th April 10.00am – 12noon - Lenten Collection and Coffee Morning

Liz Williams

Culture change for seven days a week faith welcomed by General Synod

The Church of England is to undergo a major "culture shift" to mobilise lay members to spread the gospel in their everyday lives. General Synod has given its support to the report, "Setting God's People Free", which 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.

The paper is a key element of Renewal and Reform, an initiative from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, to help grow the Church. It asks a key question of how to empower around 1 million Christians who are not ordained to live out their faith in all aspects of life Monday to Saturday as well as Sunday.

Canon Mark Russell, CEO of Church Army, said: 'We want to help Christians be even better influencers for the gospel in their everyday lives. We see this report as marking the start of a vital journey.'

"Setting God's People Free" calls for a shift in culture, looks beyond the institutional Church, seeks to affirm and enable the complementary roles of clergy and of lay people, and proposes steps to nourish, illuminate and connect what is working already in parishes.

The report follows research that shows lay people lack confidence in applying their faith into their Monday to Saturday lives. An implementation plan will be rolled out to introduce new learning communities in pilot dioceses. A bid will be made this year for financial support from the Church Commissioners which through the Archbishops' Council which is resourcing key elements of Renewal and Reform. This will be used to resource the changes called for in the report

The Poor Rev

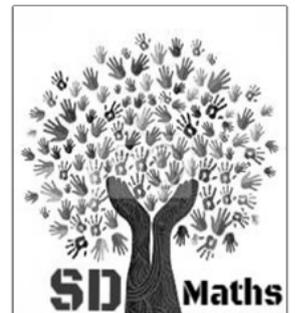
The Minister had finished his sermon and walked to the back of the church for his usual handshaking as the congregation left.

After shaking a few adult hands he came upon the 7 year old son of a Church Warden."Good morning Michael," he said as he reached out to shake Michael's hand.

As he was doing so he felt something in the palm of Michael's hand, "What's this?" he asked "Money," said Michael, "It's for you!" "I don't want your money, Michael," he said. "I want you to have it," said Michael because "Dad says you're the poorest preacher we have ever had and I want to help you"



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Just Thoughts.

Expect nothing, appreciate everything.

A wise person can learn more from a foolish question than a fool can learn from a wise answer.

a wise person wishes to be no one's enemy; and a wise person refuses to be anyone's victim.

Gossip dies when it hits a wise person's ears.

If you want to feel rich just count the blessings you have that money can't buy.

There comes a time when you have to choose between turning the page and closing the book.

Too many people spend money they have not yet earned to buy things they don't really need to impress people they don't like.

The biggest communication problem is we do not listen to understand. We listen to reply.

Wise souls speak loudly in silence.

Sometimes it's better to react with no reaction.

Good times become good memories and bad times become good lessons.

Don't be the same be better.

Life is a dream for the wise, a game for the fool, a comedy for the rich, and a tragedy for the poor.

True change is within; leave the outside as it is.

The only job where you start from the top is digging a hole.

Do not be wise in words only, but be wise in deeds also.

Before you act, listen. Before you react, think. Before you spend, earn. Before you criticise, wait. Before you pray, forgive. Before you quit, try.

The greatest wisdom is seeing through appearances.

Do not let the behaviour of others destroy your inner peace.

Once you need less you will have more.

Never force anything. Give it your best shot and then let it be. If it's meant to be then it will be.

Follow your heart but always take your brain with you.

Never look down on anyone. Only God sits that high.

An optimist is a person who sees a green light everywhere. The pessimist sees only the red light. But the truly wise person is colour blind.

Two things help success in life. The way you manage when you have nothing and the way you behave when you have everything.

Compiled by David Melhuish.



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An enchanting story in respect of bereavement for children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Elaine and I recently attended a family funeral at Worthing. The minister who conducted the service gave an enchanting story for the benefit of the grandchildren and great grandchildren who were present. It was a parallel to human life and death.

This was the minister's story.

There was a community of water bugs living at the bottom of a rather deep pond. Every now and again one of their members felt a compulsion to leave the colony and thus began to climb up the stem of a water reed. Though it was quite an effort to climb up the reed they continued on their journey and were never to be seen by their community again.

One day all the water bugs gathered together and spoke about the failure of anyone of those who had departed to return and tell them about their experiences. It was decided that when the next bug decided to leave that they should do all within their power to return to the colony and tell them about their journey and to reveal all the details of just where they went to. Everyone agreed wholeheartedly with this decision.

As it was they did not have to wait too long before someone commenced the journey, and they reminded her of the discussion they had all had concerning the matter. Accordingly she promised that she would return and tell them about her journey into the unknown. Slowly and surely she began to climb the reed stem and finally managed to break through the surface of the water leaving the world she was used to, and entering into a brand new bright and sunny place.

However being utterly exhausted by her efforts to get there she immediately went to sleep. Later when she woke up she felt entirely different, her body looked quite different, it had changed a great deal, and yes she was developing wings and though these were currently very soft, they quickly started to harden in the sunshine.

(To the adults it seemed the minister was describing the life cycle of a dragonfly.)

When the minister asked the children what they thought the creature was and they all eagerly responded that it was a butterfly. The minister readily accepted their suggestion, and said that the butterfly then spent some time exploring its new surroundings. Eventually remembering her promise to return to the colony of water bugs and tell them of her journey and also of the transformation that had happened to her, she immediately flew down to the surface of the water in an effort to return but no matter how hard she tried, it was impossible to break through the surface. It could not just be done.

Somewhat disappointed that she could not keep her promise. She consoled herself that what a wonderful place she had come to be in as a result of the journey she had made and that all her fellow water bugs in due course would make a similar journey and would ultimately arrive in the same wonderful place to be reunited her. And so she resolved that she would be there on hand to greet them whenever they arrived.

I have related this story to one or two people since we have returned from Worthing and it was thought that it may be considered useful to someone in a similar situation of having to try to explain these matters to very young children.

David & Elaine Melhuish.

Some miscellaneous observations on life...

The refusal to forgive and be forgiven lies at the root of a great deal of sickness. – Philip Pare

No nation can be destroyed while it possesses a good home life. – J G Holland

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I really don't know why.

I've studied Brian Cox,
who makes it seem so grand.
But if I tell the truth,
I still don't understand

I'm sure that it's correct.
Well, Einstein told us so.
A genius, no less,
So he must surely know.

An honourable man
not minded to deceive.
So what old Albert thought
perhaps I should believe.

But though I can believe
what Einstein said is true.
I still don't understand
quite how it works, do you ?

But why then does my God
who made earth, sea and sky,
Show love and care to me ?
I really don't know why.



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**The Secretary to the Trustees: 12 Larkswood Drive,
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Times Past

Cambridge Chronical and Journal - 5th April 1816

STAFFORD LENT ASSIZES - TRIALS OF THE RIOTERS

Richard Whorton was charged with riotously assembling (with numerous others unknown) in the parish of Sedgley, in disturbance of the public peace.

Mr. Pearson, Counsel for the prosecution, stated the case to the Jury, observing that the peace of the southern part of the county had been disturbed by a combination of colliers, amongst the most prominent of whom was the prisoner at the bar.

The first witness called was George Bannister, who stated that on the 20th Feb. 50 persons or upwards collected together at a pit at Hatfield, in the parish of Sedgley; the prisoner was the ringleader: the motive they assigned for assembling was, that their wages had been *bated*; and that nobody else should work till they had got them advanced: the prisoner and eight or ten others were armed with bludgeons; the pit where witness was, belongs to Lord Dudley; witness insisted that the men who were below should not come up; prisoner with an oath said, "Kill him!" and lifted up his bludgeon to strike witness, but missed. The mob seized witness by the clothes, and dragged him to the canal, the prisoner said, "Throw him in and drown him!" They did not, however, attempt it, but took from him the key of the Whimsey and left him, with threats that if he interfered they would kill him.

The jury found the prisoner *Guilty; to be imprisoned three months.*

Wolverhampton Chronicle & Staffordshire Advertiser
11th April 1849

TO THE INHABITANTS OF SEDGLEY AND ITS VICINITY,

W. and T. Darbey, in retiring from the SHOETRADE, desire to offer to their friends and the public their grateful acknowledgments for the liberal support they have received for more than half a century; and in relinquishing business beg to return their sincere thanks. Sedgley, April 4, 1849.

Staffordshire Advertiser - 26th April 1930

SEDGLEY

New Vicar Instituted. – Visitors from West Bromwich and Brockmoor were among the congregation at Sedgley Parish Church on Wednesday night on the occasion of the induction and institution of the Rev. Harold Marley as vicar in succession to the late Rev. Dr. T. Swindell. The Bishop of Lichfield spoke of the opening of a new chapter in the history of the parish. He had been able to choose as successor a man who would worthily carry forward the traditions of the parish.

Some miscellaneous observations on life...

At my age, I get my daily paper, look at the obituaries page and if I'm not there, I carry on as usual. - Patrick Moore

Why do people who know the least, always know it the loudest? - Anon

Bibles that are falling apart are usually owned by people who aren't.

Getting Married Jack, age 92, and Gill, age 89, are all excited about their decision to get married.

They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding, and on the way they pass a chemist shop and Jack suggests they go in.

Jack addresses the man behind the counter:

"Are you the owner?"

The pharmacist answers, "Yes."

Jack: "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?"

Pharmacist: "Of course we do."

Jack: "How about medicine for circulation?"

Pharmacist: "All kinds"

Jack: "Medicine for rheumatism?"

Pharmacist: "Definitely."

Jack: "How about suppositories?"

Pharmacist: "Yes"

Jack: "Medicine for memory problems, arthritis, and Alzheimer's?"

Pharmacist: "Yes, a large variety. The works."

Jack: "What about vitamins, sleeping pills, antidotes for Parkinson's disease?"

Pharmacist: "Absolutely."

Jack: "Everything for heartburn and indigestion?"

Pharmacist: "We do...."

Jack: "You sell wheelchairs and walkers and walking sticks?"

Pharmacist: "All speeds and sizes."

Jack: "Adult incontinence pants?"

Pharmacist: "Yes."

Jack: "Then we'd like to use this store for our wedding present's list..."

Tony Wright

Czech Christian given life for 'spying' in Sudan – for showing compassion

A Czech Christian aid worker has been sentenced to life in prison for spying, which in Sudan's system means at least 20 years behind bars. His real 'crime' was to help a student who had been badly injured at a demonstration.

Petr Jašek, who is in his mid-50s, was recently sentenced in Khartoum.

Release International has expressed its shock at the ruling. Chief Executive Paul Robinson said that it highlights "the growing hostility in Sudan towards Christians and the church. The government is already demolishing churches."

Petr Jašek has a 20-year background in the medical field, including 10 years as a hospital administrator. He has worked to provide care to persecuted Christians in Sudan and Nigeria, including medical care for Christians attacked by Boko Haram.

If you would like to help: <http://www.releaseinternational.org/>



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APRIL 2017

2ND APRIL - 5TH 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 Suzanne Bradley

St Peter's - 10.30am - The Revd Canon Judith Oliver

All Saints' - 6.30pm - The Revd Alan Howes

9th APRIL - PALM SUNDAY

All Saints' - 8am - The Revd Sue Oliver

St Andrew's - 9.30am - The Revd James Makepeace

All Saints' - 10.30am - The Revd Canon Judith Oliver

St Peter's - 10.30am - The Revd James Makepeace

All Saints' - 6.30pm - The Revd Alan Howes

16th APRIL - EASTER DAY

All Saints' - 8am - The Revd Sue Oliver

St Andrew's - 9.30am - Jan Humphries - By Extn

All Saints' - 10.30am - The Revd Canon Judith Oliver

St Peter's - 10.30am - The Revd Canon Peter Kerr

All Saints' - 6.30pm - Jan Humphries

23rd APRIL - 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

All Saints' - 8am - NO SERVICE

St Andrew's - NO SERVICE AS TEAM SERVICE AT ALL SAINTS' 10.30AM

All Saints' - 10.30am - Team Service - The Very Revd Peter Atkinson (Dean)

St Peter's - 10.30am - NO SERVICE AS TEAM SERVICE AT ALL SAINTS'

All Saints - 6.30pm - Compline - Jan Humphries

30th APRIL - 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

All Saints' - 8am - NO SERVICE

St Andrew's - 9.30am - Team Service with Ven Nikki Groarke

All Saints' - 10.30am - NO SERVICE AS TEAM SERVICE AT ST ANDREW'S
9.30AM

St Peter's - 10.30am - NO SERVICE AS TEAM SERVICE AT ST ANDREW'S
9.30AM

All Saints' - 6.30pm - Songs Of Praise - Jan Humphries