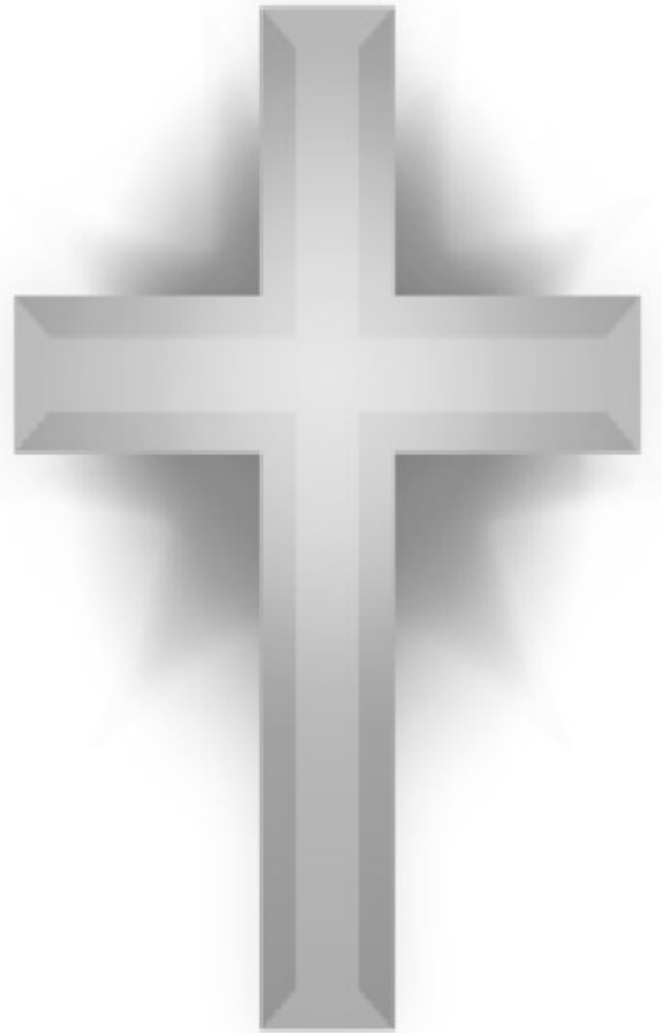
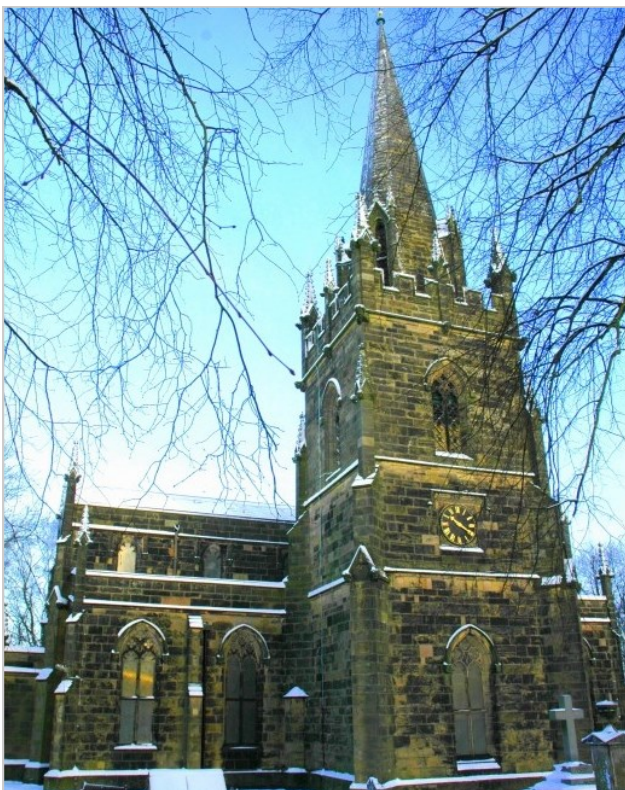


THE BEACON

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



50p
JUNE 2017

WHO's WHO

Team Rector	Vacant	
Team Vicar	Catherine Mitchell	01902 677897
Licensed Lay Minister	Jan Humphries	01902 661275
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

Dates for Diary

Mothers' Union

June 6th - 2.30pm - Life on a Nigerian Mission Station - Wendy Pettit

June 13th - 7.30pm - Deanery Festival - St Mark's Pensnett

Men's Society

June 19th—Explosive Demolition—John Woodward

Funerals

2nd May Clara Baker

15th May—Beryl Jean Britton

19th May—Arthur Fredrick Jeffrey Bates

25th May—Valerie Barnes

30th May—Carol Beatrice Bytheway

Flower Rota - June 2017

June 4th—David and Elaine Melhuish

June 11th—Pamela Hackett

June 18th Margaret Martin

June 25th Val Round

Children's Society News

Collection boxes

The last round of collection boxes have been handed in and Kath Apperley, with the help of her family, has undertaken the daunting task of counting all of the money – mostly coins, not notes. The total raised was no less than an astounding **£ 1,202.50**. Thanks are due to the generosity of all our donors and of course to Kath in particular who has undertaken organising the box collections since Phyllis Daines retired some years ago. Anne

Vicar's Ponderings

As a curate, it was my custom to write a piece for the monthly church magazine. My offering was called "Curates ponderings".... So I thought, I would carry that custom here in Gornal and Sedgley, but now call it "vicars ponderings", sorry it's not a very imaginative name.

The ponderings would often take a theme, or response to something that had happened, or looking forward to something in the life and faith of the church. My last curates ponderings was 7 pages long! I can imagine the magazine editors are now reading this in horror! But this was a special one, as I reflected back on my time as curate and all that we'd done together.

But this first vicars ponderings, reflects on my time here, so far, in the Gornal and Sedgley Team Ministry. As I write, I have just finished my first week with you. The week started last Sunday, 7th May, at my licensing service. What a service it was!..... I have been blessed by the welcome that I received from you all on that day and during the week since. Thank you to all that contributed to the smooth running of the service and the lovely refreshments after the service. I have had so many comments from my family, friends and all those that travelled from Durham to be at the service, how welcomed they were and looked after, so on their behalf thank you.

This week has been a time of starting to get to know people and how things work! It will take me some time to fully understand all this, in fact if I ever will! So please forgive me if I look blank when you tell me about something that hadn't been on my radar!

The coming months between now and when Guy Hewlett, our new rector, is licensed, will primarily be a time of getting to know people, both inside and outside the church and how our three churches work together. Already I have noticed the subtle differences in services between the churches. Some traditions I am familiar with, others are new, so this will take time for me to get to know.

Guidance and support from church wardens and servers is also appreciated. In the short time I have been here I have already discerned some things that can be adapted or changed to aid our ministry and mission here, I will consult our Church Wardens on these matters, in the first instance.

There were lots of other things going on too, and in coming weeks I will continue to get a grip with how things work here and also to starting to meet as many of you as I can.

To this end, if you were not at the services at All Saints and St Peter's today you would have missed several important activities to getting to know you, the first is that I would love to come and visit as many of you as I can in the coming year. If you would like me to visit you, can you add your name and contact details to the sheets that are at the back of each church. In a couple of weeks I will collect the sheets and start to organise the visits.

An important date for your diary is Saturday 27th May between 2:00-4:00 I will be holding an open house at the vicarage, there will be drinks and nibbles, please come if you are able, for as little or as much of the time as you can, please also pray for good weather!!

Finally, I have also been asking that, in the coming weeks, so that I get to know your names, please tell me your name each time we meet, the more times I connect you with your name the quicker I will remember it!

This is not a normal vicars ponderings, but I thought it might be helpful to hear a few thoughts from my initial week here....

I am really looking forward to serving with you here in Gornal and Sedgley, and I hope in the coming days and weeks that we get to know each other better. Blessings

Catherine (Team Vicar)

Letter from The Archdeacon of Dudley

Nikki Groarke

On Sunday 11 June I will have the privilege of preaching at a Service of Thanksgiving for Women's Ministry in the Cathedral. 2017 is a significant year of anniversaries, an opportunity to remember and celebrate some key moments in the gradual acceptance in the Church of England of the ministry of women in leadership roles:

50 years since female lay readers were appointed;

30 years since women deacons were ordained;

25 years since the vote was taken for women's ordination to the priesthood in 1992.

In this diocese, of course, the ministry of women has long been welcomed and appreciated wholeheartedly by the vast majority of church members. It is an encouraging environment in which women can flourish and realise their potential, serving in roles which suit their varied gifts, personalities and skills, being who God made them to be, in the same way that men can. Hopefully, as the impact of our Kingdom People: Calling Young Disciples project grows, we will similarly see young people and children increasingly playing their part, growing in confidence that what they bring is valued and vital to our shared life as God's people.

I am acutely aware that I am in a senior role in God's church, as one of a steadily growing number of women, because wise people invested in me, saw my leadership potential, gave me opportunities and trained and mentored me. They picked me up when I stumbled, let me make mistakes and learn from them, and stretched me to do more than I thought I could, trusting that God equips the called, rather than calls the equipped. I am especially grateful to those who did that when the church still had questions about the role of women. I think they were following in the footsteps of Jesus!

When Jesus walked on earth, women were uneducated, not given a legally valid voice, and treated like property. He refused to bow to those cultural stigmas, instead modelling a way of relating to women which was totally different – radically inclusive, no limits on their God given destiny or restrictions on how their gifts could be exercised. It is when women and men, and young people and children work together that the church is enabled to be what it is created to be, the hope of the world, fully representative of the body of Christ as we seek together to be Kingdom People.

I hope many from across the Diocese will be in the Cathedral at 4pm on 11 June to celebrate the ministry of women. I pray too, that each of us will think of young people in whom we can invest – especially girls, and invite them to join us, so that we are a truly multi-generational church encouraging the gifts and contributions of everyone.

Congratulations

To the Rev. Bernard & Dr. Gwen Harris on their 60th, Diamond, Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 11th May 2017.

Best wishes to you both on this very special day.

Many thanks

to everyone for their congratulations & support, also for the many lovely cards & prayers i have received following my invitation from Bishops John , to become an Honorary Canon of Worcester.

It came as a complete surprise, and I'm still on cloud 9!

I do not have a date yet for my instillation but will let you all know when I have a date & time for the service. Once again thank you all for your prayers, & support.

Jan

Holy Days and commemorations for June

- 1 Justin, Martyr at Rome, c.165
- 3 The Martyrs of Uganda, 1885–7 and 1977
- 4 Petroc, Abbot of Padstow, 6th century
- 5 Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton, Bishop, Apostle of Germany, Martyr, 754
- 6 Ini Kopuria, Founder of the Melanesian Brotherhood, 1945
- 8 Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Nonjuror, Hymn Writer, 1711
- 9 Columba, Abbot of Iona, Missionary, 597
- 9 Ephrem of Syria, Deacon, Hymn Writer, Teacher of the Faith, 373
- 11 Barnabas the Apostle
- 14 Richard Baxter, Puritan Divine, 1691
- 15 Evelyn Underhill, Spiritual Writer, 1941
- 16 Richard, Bishop of Chichester, 1253
- 16 Joseph Butler, Bishop of Durham, Philosopher, 1752
- 17 Samuel and Henrietta Barnett, Social Reformers, 1913 and 1936
- 18 Bernard Mizeki, Apostle of the MaShona, Martyr, 1896
- 19 Sundar Singh of India, Sadhu (holy man), Evangelist, Teacher of the Faith, 1929
- 22 Alban, first Martyr of Britain, c.250
- 23 Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely, c.678
- 24 The Birth of John the Baptist
- 27 Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 444
- 28 Irenæus, Bishop of Lyon, Teacher of the Faith, c.200
- 29 Peter and Paul, Apostles

MOTHERS' UNION

Pauline Turner was 'Doing a Lumley' as she entertained our evening group in April with the first instalment of her world tour. Many of us wondered how she and Alan got all they needed for the journey into two small suitcases and a rucksack. Organisation and discipline were the order of the day, as there was no scope for 'I'll just pop that in as well', like so many of us do when going on holiday by car!

On boarding the Queen Mary II and being shown to their cabin, with balcony, they settled into life on the ship as it made its way to New York. The many activities, entertainment, and dinner with the Captain kept Pauline and Alan occupied. The view of the Statue of Liberty heralded their arrival to New York where they purchased a five day bus pass to see as much of the city as possible. Times Square, the Empire State Building were musts to see, as was the site of 9/11. Pauline told us how the water in the pools at 9/11 runs away into the ground, symbolising how the Twin Towers disappeared on that fateful day. Everyone who lost their life in the terror attack is named around the pools, a lasting memorial to the past and a place of hope for the future.

From New York they went by train to Chicago, the 'city of architects', and then to San Francisco with its landmark Golden Gate Bridge and in its bay the island of Alcatraz. From America our intrepid travellers flew to Japan and Pauline told us about the tea houses and the thick, bright green tea! We saw photos of pagodas and temples and Japan's beautiful scenery. This was part one of 'Doing a Lumley' and we look forward to hearing more next year.

'Just an old table' was the title of Joyce Bush's talk at our May afternoon meeting. Her parents dining table had been the place to gather to discuss the events of the day over a meal; play board games as a family; do homework; craft work; the place to hide under when the siren sounded during the war; a place where disagreements and problems were ironed out.

The table was handed down to Joyce and had a similar valued place in her own family's life until her daughter married and the table went to her home. In time her daughter and family moved and no longer wanted the 'old table', so back it came to Joyce's house. Her parents 'old table' – just an 'old table' – but it had been there through the joy and sadness, the hopes and concerns, at the centre of Joyce's family life. Makes you think – what has your and my 'old table' shared in our family lives? Not just an 'old table'!

Revd David Knight has taken services during our vacancy and we have got to know him well. He has moved down south but continues to spend two days a week at Mary Steven's Hospice as their Chaplain. At our evening meeting he came to talk to us about 'Care at the end of Life'.

Cicely Saunders was a British nurse whose chronic health problems had forced her to pursue a career in medical social work. The relationship she developed with a dying Polish refugee helped define her ideas that terminally ill patients needed compassionate care to help address their fears and concerns, as well as palliative comfort for physical symptoms. Her idea of 'Total Pain' consists of four elements – physical, emotional, social and spiritual pain. Cicely believed you can't just treat the physical pain without understanding the need to deal with the other three elements.

David told us about the 'Chaplain's Tool Box' which consists of Companionship, to be there to listen to the anger, fear, the concerns and sharing the person's life experiences; Hope, to give realistic hope; and Peace, to help the person be at peace with their life. You may be interested to know that we are world leaders in the hospice movement. This was a truly wonderful talk which gave us an insight into an area of care we don't always want to think about. The understanding, compassion and humour that David shared with us made me feel privileged to have listened to him.

Congratulations were in order as David told us he had been appointed Chaplain at a hospice in Eastbourne. Their gain is Mary Stevens Hospice's loss.

Dates:

6th June 2.30pm Life on a Nigerian Mission, Wendy Pettit
21st June 2.30pm Diocesan Festival, St James, Wollaston

Liz Williams

Cream Tea

Tuesday 4th July, 2.30pm
at
All Saints' Church Hall
£6 – Proceeds to
Mothers' Union Projects
& All Saints' and St Andrew's Church

(Tickets from Liz Williams)

Charity of the Month

The Charity of the Month for June will continue to be Beacon Vision. We are lucky to have the facilities available at the Beacon Centre on our doorstep, for the benefit of the whole community. Their funding has been drastically cut and therefore this is a worthy charity for us to support.

Thank you to those members who attended the service for the Closure of St Mary's, Hurst Hill, Mothers' Union branch, due to ill health and the age of the members. The service was led by Revd Emma Stanford and was a very sad occasion. There was an opportunity to chat to members over tea and cakes afterwards. Val Watts has worked tirelessly as Branch Leader for many years and members have supported the aims of the Mothers' Union through projects and prayer. We continue to hold them in our prayers.



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Ever feel pigeonholed at church?

Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. (Acts 6:8)

What is your position in the church?' we may sometimes ask. 'What is your role?' Directed by our sense of order, we like to know who is responsible for what. And in the workplace, roles may be even more clear-cut. 'I can't help you', we tell the inquirer on the phone, and then – if we're concerned about PR – 'but I know someone who can'.

As the early Church in Jerusalem began to grow, social needs appeared among the believers. It was not, however, until the Greek-speaking widows began to complain of neglect that the apostles recognised the need to delegate. So the Church chose seven men to oversee the distribution of food. One of them was Stephen.

Although these people had a specific responsibility, it is apparent that they were not confined to it. For Stephen, we read, 'performed great wonders and signs among the people'. Perhaps the apostles were surprised at this first instance of wonders being performed by someone who was not an apostle. Stephen was on the 'administrative' staff, not a member of the 'ministry' team. But there is no evidence in the biblical account that anyone tried to curb Stephen's use of his extraordinary spiritual gift.

Equally surprising, perhaps, is that the skills required of those who were to distribute the food aid were not administrative so much as spiritual. 'Full of the Spirit and wisdom' (Acts 6:3) was the character specification; and Stephen is described as being 'full of faith and of the Holy Spirit', and 'full of God's grace and power' (Acts 6:5, 8).

References in several of the New Testament letters make it clear that the gifts of the Spirit were given to men and women in the Church according to God's sovereign will. To close our minds against the possibility of any member of our fellowship exercising spiritual gifts today may be defining our roles too narrowly, and even hindering the wind of the Spirit. May we all daily seek to be – like Stephen – filled with the Spirit, with faith, and with God's grace and power, and perhaps God will surprise us with new roles

Cathedrals Working group

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have set up a Cathedrals Working Group, CWG, in response to a request made by the Bishop of Peterborough in his January 2017 Visitation Charge on Peterborough Cathedral. He asked that a revision be carried out of the adequacy of the current Cathedrals Measure.

The CWG will review aspects of cathedral management and governance and produce recommendations for the Archbishops on the implications of these responsibilities with regards to the current Cathedrals Measure. It will be chaired by the Bishop of Stepney, Adrian Newman, the former Dean of Rochester Cathedral, and the Dean of York, Vivienne Faull, will be the vice chair.

The Working Group will look at a number of different areas of Cathedral governance, including training and development for cathedral deans and chapters, financial management issues, the procedure for Visitations, safeguarding matters, buildings and heritage and the role of Cathedrals in contributing to evangelism within their dioceses.

The Bishop of Stepney and the Dean of York said: 'Cathedrals contribute uniquely to the ecology of the Church of England, and we are a healthier, stronger church when they flourish.'

Ladies' Society

In April a group of ladies enjoyed an evening entertainment provided by the talented Willenhall Musical Theatre Company at Dormston Mill Theatre.

"Anything Goes" was delivered by the all singing, all dancing cast of this amateur musical company whose talents coped with the demands of the show's roles.

Cole Porter tunes flow through this classical musical comedy including, "You're The Top", "It's Delovely", and of course the title tune, "Anything Goes".

We remembered the tunes rather than the story of intrigue aboard an ocean-going ship. The stage setting promoted a feeling of life on board a ship full of passengers.

All in all, an excellent show!

Thanks to Barbara Price for " getting the booking".

Our next meeting on June 5th takes us to Baggeridge for an evening meal which I'm sure we'll enjoy, both food and company.

Anne Wakefield

Children's Society Box

Well done to our Children's Society Box Holders. Your 2017 total was £1,202.50 Thank you for all your support.

Kath Apperley

Why ministry and discipleship are not the same

Service and servanthood are part of the DNA of every Christian disciple and of the Church, but during the last couple of generations, the buzz word in church has been ‘ministry’ (which literally means the same thing) and quite a trade was established in making Christians feel guilty if they weren’t ‘ministering’, while fewer people outside wanted to join in this energetic ecclesial activity. Thankfully we are shifting our attention to helping Christians to be Christians by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The more our talk revolves around ‘ministry’, the more we devalue and disable Christian disciples whose calling is not to do something for the benefit of the church but to be Christians. Put simply, discipleship is what all Christians are called to – we are all disciples of the Lord – whereas ministry is a summons by the Lord to some activity and, in particular, an activity for and/or on behalf of the Church.

The concept of ministry has a range of interpreters. At one end of the scale are those who divide the Church into the few who minister and the majority who don’t; at the other end are those who assume that every Christian is a minister with at least one ministry. A couple of generations ago we were at one extreme and ministry normally meant ordination; then opinion swung to the other extreme, and ministry came to mean activities every Christian should engage in, calling each little act of service ‘our ministry’. Both are fatal traps into which we easily fall. ‘When all is ministry, ministry fades away.’ (T.F. O’Meara: *Theology of Ministry*, Paulist Press, 1983).

Ministry is always the servant of mission. God's mission is the outgoing love of God the Holy Trinity for His creation expressed in the mission of the Son: namely the incarnation, life, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ in whom God has reconciled the world to Himself and through whom the Holy Spirit has been given. That mission Christ has committed to His Church as a royal priesthood in making disciples, baptising, teaching and being His body in the world. (Matthew 28:19,20; John 20:21,22, Romans 1:16,17) Good, called, well-trained, accredited, commissioned and accountable ministers in many areas of witness are vital to equip the Church for the mission of God. Despite the few who scorn the use of the word 'mission', it is where God starts and ends.

Both mission and ministry serve the purpose of drawing people into a relationship with God the Holy Trinity through faith in Jesus Christ so that all may enjoy reconciliation in His love, and that life in our communities, churches and as individuals may be enriched by the Gospel and reflect the joy of the Kingdom of God.

(Extracted from a message given by the Rt Rev Robert Paterson, former Bishop of Sodor and Man, to the Chester Readers' AGM in October 2016.)

Commuters walk a marathon every two weeks

Here is some good news for commuters: you may be fitter than you fear you are. Research by Macmillan Cancer Support has found that 3.5 million workers spend 40 minutes a day walking. By the time they have been to and from their nearest station and/or bus stop, climbed stairs or escalators, and walked on to the office and back, they have clocked up about 2.6 miles a day.

Many health experts recommend walking 5,000 steps, or 2.5 miles, a day.

UK's new church tourism website

Bill Bryson, best-selling author of books on travel, the English language and science, has revealed his 14 favourite churches for 'ExploreChurches' at www.explorechurches.org. It is the UK's new church tourism website.

The Italian Chapel in Orkney, Hexham Abbey and London's St Martin the Fields are amongst Bill Bryson's favourite churches. As he explains, "It is impossible to overstate the importance of churches to this country. Nothing else in the built environment has the emotional and spiritual resonance, the architectural distinction, the ancient, reassuring solidity of a parish church. To me, they are the physical embodiment of all that is best and most enduring in Britain."

'ExploreChurches' makes it easy to discover beautiful and fascinating churches and has been developed by the National Churches Trust, the UK's church buildings support charity.

The website brings churches to life by using high quality images and providing information about the history and architecture of individual buildings. It's then easy to plan a visit as 'ExploreChurches' provides practical information including opening hours, directions and access details.

Users can search for churches based on location, or by a particular feature such as stained glass or monuments. There are also 'themed lists', which help visitors find churches that fit their passions and interests. These include: Churches on TV, the real life locations of our favourite on-screen moments; Wooden Churches, and 'Love' Churches.

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Articles for the April magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

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Whit Sunday – Pentecost

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was exactly 50 days after the Passover, the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His apostles that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for his apostles – but He knew they could not do the work themselves – they would need His help.

And so the apostles and disciples waited in Jerusalem, praying together for several days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the apostles and disciples of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning: proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, he could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Refugee Week 19th – 25th June

Refugee Week is a nationwide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, and aims to encourage a better understanding between communities. Next year (2018) it celebrates its 20th anniversary.



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The Ven. John Barton considers the Trinity

If I say the doctrine of the Trinity is a work in progress, I may incur the wrath of theologians who, with their forbears, have laboured, studied and debated it for centuries. Nevertheless, even now the family of Orthodox churches differ from Catholic and Protestant churches in the way they define the relationship of the Holy Spirit to the Father and the Son. Is “proceeding” the best word or not?

We have to admit that human words can never adequately describe the Creator of the Cosmos, who is God-with-us in the Person of Jesus, and the ever-present Holy Spirit, making God known to us, stirring up our individual gifts and prompting us to behave as children of God.

But we must do the best we can with the words we have, to portray the ways which we, collectively and personally, encounter God. To make sure that our definitions remain orthodox, we have the classic Creeds to help us. They were produced when heresies threatened to misrepresent Christian experience, often by denying the divinity of Christ and so undermining the good news of our salvation. It may be a surprise to learn that the first known heresy was actually the opposite. It claimed that Jesus was some kind of apparition and only seemed to be human. With this in mind, the writer of the First Letter of John in the New Testament insisted:

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”

Although this applies uniformly to every Christian, our distinctive God-given personalities are nurtured within God's community. We are not clones. Our ways of worship ('Spikes', 'Prots' and 'Happy-Clappy') may vary and our personal faith will change and grow throughout our lives. But, as St Paul writes, "in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work". One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity.

With Trinity Sunday in mind:

If asked to define the Trinity, we can only say that it is not this or that. - **Augustine**

No wonder that the doctrine of the Trinity is inexplicable, seeing that the nature of God is incomprehensible. Our faith must assent to what our reason cannot comprehend, otherwise we can never be Christians. - **Francis Burkitt**

Thousands of the ablest minds of the centuries have pondered this problem and no one has been able to explain it; who then invented it? What man can invent, man can explain: what man cannot explain, man cannot have invented. It must be a revelation. - **G H Lang**

The Trinity is the basis of the gospel, and the gospel is a declaration of the Trinity in action. - **J I Packer**

Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence. - **John Wesley**

St Andrews Garden party

June 10th 1-30-4pm. Tea /cakes, various stalls and a raffle.

We do not always record achievements in our community for a whole host of reasons. Maybe we should do more, for example.

In Tipton the Pride of Tipton Awards began when a group of people wanted a way to highlight the community spirit of the people working or living in the area. They wanted a way to show their appreciation for those who dedicate their own time and go that extra mile for others in the local community. Awards were presented to a number of people at the ceremony in April including one of our own from Sedgley. Ian Wright, a serving Fire-fighter for more than 20 years, and based at Tipton Fire Station. Ian was baptised and married at All Saint's, choirboy and server and is part of the Scouting community in Sedgley.

His award was for his work in schools in Sandwell to encourage children under 11 years, with behavioural problems and to enable them to make the right choices in life. This was outside his normal job of work.

Previously in Nov. 2016 he had received an Unsung Hero Award from the West Midlands Fire Service. This award was for the individual who 'gets on with the job' but in doing so always goes that extra mile. Done with a positive attitude and nothing is too much trouble.

It may be appropriate at this time to also record that in June 2013 when based in Smethwick, Ian as Watch Commander, led the first crew at 11.06pm to an open storage yard fire. The fire was so intense he had to request an increase in the number of Appliances to 30 plus 2 Hydraulic Platforms.

At 1.37am the duty Principal Officer took charge of the incident and initiated a message to fire control to 'make pumps 35'. The incident was declared major at 3.22am on Monday the 1st July 2013.

This was the largest fire ever attended in West Midlands Fire Service history. At its height 39 Fire Engines, 200 fire fighting personnel, three aerial appliances, two high volume water pumping units and 13 flexi-duty officers were all in attendance.

In recognition of Watch Commander Ian Wright`s unprecedented decision making and professionalism, he was presented with a Chief Fire Officer`s Commendation.

We should be proud of all who serve the community here in Sedgley and the West Midlands and when appropriate keep on record any achievements.

Celebrating our 999 service

The 999 emergency service was introduced 80 years ago this month – on 30th June 1937, in the London area only.

It was the first service of its kind in the world, and a notice in the Evening News suggested that the public should use it only if "the man in the flat next to yours is murdering his wife, or you have seen a heavily masked cat burglar peering round the stack pipe of the local bank building".

For less urgent matters, such as a lorry coming to rest in their garden, people were advised to "just call up the local police".

The first call resulted in the arrest of a would-be burglar, but not all were so serious. Of 1336 calls made in the first week, 91 were prank calls.

One of the more unexpected results of the 999 service was its effect on telephone switch-rooms, where a "raucous buzzer" sounded when someone dialled 999. It was reported that "a few of the girls found the situation too much and had to be carried out".

Despite that, 999 was a big success, but it wasn't until after World War Two that it reached most other parts of the UK. It became available to the entire country only when all the telephone exchanges were automated in 1976.

The idea for an emergency number came after operators couldn't be reached to alert the fire brigade to a fire that killed five women in London's Wimpole Street in 1935. The number 999 was chosen because it was easy to dial, even in the dark, on old-style phones. The US waited until 1968 to introduce its own emergency number, 911.

More than half of genuine 999 calls ask for police assistance. The next most requested is the ambulance service, followed by the fire brigade and, finally, the coastguard.

Some churches have used the idea of an emergency service for people in need of various kinds of help – though in those cases the number 999 is replaced by a series of Scriptural references.

No theological reason for pews

Are you a pew lover? Or a modern comfy chair lover? It seems that this is a tension found in churches throughout the country. Conservationists want to keep the hard and unyielding wooden pews, while many vicars and lay people, desperate to encourage new people, want to introduce a comfortable place for them to sit. Now the Chancellor for the Diocese of Rochester has ruled in favour of comfy chairs, saying that there is 'no theological basis' for the retention of pews and that the 'need and desirability' of the comfortable chairs outweighed any benefit of not having them.

Night-time prayers

The little boy was saying his go-to-bed prayers in a very low voice. "I can't hear you, dear," his mother whispered.

"Wasn't talking to you," said the small one firmly.



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Just Thoughts.

Whilst recently seeking refreshments in Ty Mawr cafe, Rhyd Ddu, Snowdonia, I picked up a book by Scots Poet, Michael Gordon Dickson called "On Second Thoughts". Reading the first poem it struck my sense of humour and I wondered if it was ideal for Just Thoughts. But nevertheless I hovered, I hesitated, I wavered, I vacillated and oscillated then thought why not it's surely good enough to raise a smile. So here you are, On Second Thoughts, I hope you like it.

On Second Thoughts.

I'm weighing up the situation
Considering each implication
This needs some consideration
Before I can decide.

Don't rush me into a decision
Which later, might invite derision
This must be thought through with precision
Before my hands are tied.

I wish I could leave this all behind
Conclusions are so very hard to find
I wish I could make up my mind
About what I'm going to do.

I know that I must be incisive
I don't want to be divisive
But I'm not one to be decisive
And I've got to think this through.

Now my head is getting sore,
Please let me have a moment more
Before I can be sure
You know I won't give up this fight.

I'm sorry for all this confusion
And it may be a delusion
But I can't reach a conclusion
About which choice is right.

Please forgive all this hesitation
Concerning my prevarication
I've searched my brain for inspiration
And I've just come up with nowt.

But now, the blooming waiters cross, I see
But I still think coffee's bad for me
So... I'll just have a cup of tea !
But then again.....
On second thoughts.

Dear God; If I am wrong, right me. If I am lost, Guide me. If I start to give up, keep me going. Lead me in light and love.

Make yourself a priority once in a while. Sometimes it's a necessity, and at such times it's not being selfish.

Choose to live by choice, not by chance. To be motivated, not manipulated. to be useful, not just used. To make changes, not excuses. To excel, but not compete. Choose self-esteem, not self-pity. Listen to your inner voice and not the random opinions of others.

Compiled by David Melhuish

Motoring holiday

Lost Husband: Where are we now?

Wife: Halfway between Paris and Marseilles, dear.

Husband: Don't bother me with details. What country are we in?

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Marmalade Cake

Ingredients

8oz (225g) dried fruit
8oz (225g) self raising flour
250ml (1 mug) cold tea
4oz (115g) caster sugar
1 egg, beaten
2tbspns marmalade

Method

Grease a 675g loaf tin and line with greaseproof paper.

Soak fruit in tea overnight.

Mix the flour, sugar, egg and marmalade, add the fruit and mix.

Bake in the tin for 1 hour in preheated oven at 180degC/350degF/ Gas Mark4.

Take a nap – and be happy

If you want to be happy and smarter, grab a 30-minute nap during the day. Recent research has found that a nap of that length is ideal for boosting your performance and your personal feeling of happiness.

‘No-nappers’ can struggle through the day, and ‘long’ nappers risk some health problems, but a nap of up to 30 minutes in length seems to be the perfect ‘down-time’ your body needs to get up and running again.

As one scientist put it: ‘Naps of under 30 minutes make you more focused, productive and creative... and you can also become happier just by taking a short nap.’ The study was carried out at the University of Hertfordshire.



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Some knowledge

Why do men's clothes have buttons on the right while women's clothes have buttons on the left?

BECAUSE

When buttons were invented, they were very expensive and worn primarily by the rich. Since most people are right-handed, it is easier to push buttons on the right through holes on the left. Because wealthy women were dressed by maids, dressmakers put the buttons on the maid's right! And that's where women's buttons have remained since.

Why do ships and aircraft use 'mayday' as their call for help?

BECAUSE

This comes from the French word m'aidez - meaning 'help me' - and is pronounced, approximately, 'mayday.'

Why are zero scores in tennis called 'love'?

BECAUSE

In France, where tennis became popular, the round zero on the scoreboard looked like an egg and was called 'l'oeuf,' which is French for 'the egg.' When tennis was introduced in the US, Americans (naturally), mispronounced it 'love.'

Why do X's at the end of a letter signify kisses?

BECAUSE

In the Middle Ages, when many people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfil obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.

Why is shifting responsibility to someone else called passing the buck'?

BECAUSE

In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility of dealing, he would 'pass the buck' to the next player.

Why do people clink their glasses before drinking a toast?

BECAUSE

In earlier times it used to be common for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, it became customary for a guest to pour a small amount of his drink into the glass of the host. Both men would drink it simultaneously. When a guest trusted his host, he would only touch or clink the host's glass with his own.

Why are people in the public eye said to be 'in the limelight'?

BECAUSE

Invented in 1825, limelight was used in lighthouses and theatres by burning a cylinder of lime which produced a brilliant light. In the theatre, a performer 'in the limelight' was the Centre of attention.

Why is someone who is feeling great 'on cloud nine'?

BECAUSE

Types of clouds are numbered according to the altitudes they attain, with nine being the highest cloud. If someone is said to be on cloud nine, that person is floating well above worldly cares.

Tony Hart

WWI Timeline - Events of 1917

June 1917

- 5th German daylight aeroplane raid on Sheerness & Naval establishments on the Medway.
- 7th Battle of Messines 1917 begins as an Allied Offensive in Flanders. The battle was launched in the early hours of the morning with the blowing of 19 mines by the British Army, the largest of which is now known as Spanbroekmolen Mine Crater (or Lone Tree Crater). The battle ends 14th June.
- 11th Entente Governments present demand to Greek Government for the abdication of King Constantine.
- 12th King Constantine abdicates.
- 13th Great German daylight aeroplane raid on London, 157 killed and 432 injured. American Major-General Pershing arrives in France.
- 17th Portuguese troops in action on Western Front for the first time. German airship 'L.- 48' destroyed by aeroplane at Theberton, Suffolk.
- 25th First contingent of United States troops arrives in France.
- 27th French cruiser 'Kleber' sunk by submarine off Brest.
- 28th General Allenby becomes commanding officer in Egypt.

Gotha Bombers.

During the aeroplane raid on London on the 13th June by 26 Gotha bombers, the reported number killed varies from 157 to 162! It was the worst raid of the war. The Gotha were heavy bombers able to fly in daytime or at night and were a bigger threat to the civilian population of Britain than the much-feared Zeppelins, which were susceptible to bad weather and presented a large and less-defended target to British fighter aircraft and anti-aircraft artillery.

Top Ten Aces.

An ace was a pilot who shot down more than five enemy aircraft.

PILOT	COUNTRY	Aircraft Downed
Manfred von Richthofen	Germany	80
Rene Fock	France	75
Billy Bishop	Canada	72
Ernst Udet	Germany	62
'Mick' Mannock	Britain	61
Raymond Collishaw	Canada	60
James McCudden	Britain	57
Andrew Beauchamp-Proctor	South Africa	54
Erich Lowenhardt	Germany	54
Donald MacLaren	Canada	54

260,000

By 1917, the British Women's Land Army had over 260,000 women working as farm labourers. Their work allowed men to be released for military service.

Rosemary Moss

Times Past

Wolverhampton Chronicle & Staffordshire Advertiser 13th June 1849

SEDGLEY

CHANGE RINGING.- On Sunday last the Junior Society of All Saints Ringers, Sedgley, accomplished their second attempt at change ringing, when Mr. Taylor's peal of grandsire triples consisting of 5,010 changes with 190 bobs and 50 singles, was executed in the short space of two hours and fifty-one minutes, the party being stationed as follows:- namely, treble, George Devonport, 2d George Johnson, 3d Charles Fellowes, 4th Francis Roden, 5th Thomas Goodman, 6th Charles Johnson, 7th Joseph Devonport, tenor Benjamin Slater. The peal was conducted and called by Charles Johnson, weight of tenor 19cwt. 3qrs.

The Staffordshire Advertiser Saturday 13th June 1891

SEDGLEY

Disallowance of Expenses by the Staffordshire County Council.

A PROTEST.-

At a meeting of the Sanitary Authority on Tuesday evening, Mr. J. Law complained that for some reason, which he could not understand, the County Council had disallowed charges amounting to about £200 for expenses incurred in the maintenance of main roads. He remarked that the ratable value of Sedgley parish was £94,688, and out of 243 parishes in the County of Stafford, only six were rated higher. This fact, he contended showed that the County authorities were not justified in disallowing expenses which had been legitimately incurred in improving and maintaining the roads. He considered the course pursued by the County Council could not be too strongly condemned, and moved a resolution calling upon the Chief Surveyor to visit Sedgley to examine the vouchers. Mr. H. Hughes seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. E. Wones and carried unanimously.

New vicar's prayer

The new vicar was taking his first service, and determined to make a good impression. The congregation sat spellbound throughout the eloquent sermon and the extended intercessions, which seemed to cover the whole category of human wants. After the service one church member asked another in awe: "Don't you think our new vicar prays well?"

"I most certainly do," was the answer. "Why that man asked the good Lord for things that our old vicar didn't even know He had!"

Miscellaneous observations from modern life

Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes? Come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller!

The alternative to a holiday is to stay home, and tip every third person you see.

I accidentally went grocery shopping on an empty stomach, and am now the proud owner of Aisle 4.

Why are buildings called buildings when they are finished? Shouldn't they be called builts?

Why is it that when you tell a man there are 400 billion stars he will believe you, but when you tell him there's wet paint he has to touch it?

If your supermarket is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

Carers Week 12th – 18th June

Carers Week is an annual campaign of activities and events to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges carers face, and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK.

This year the focus is on Building Carer Friendly Communities, which support carers to look after their loved ones well, while recognising that they are individuals with needs of their own.

What will you do with your old £1 coins?

You have until 15th October to dispose of your 'old' £1 coins. What will you do with them? Many charities are hoping that as you find the old coins, you will donate them to the charities. Even the Royal Mint is telling charities to increase their presence on the streets this summer with collection buckets, where people are likely to have their purses out. It is thought that there are millions of old £1 coins out there, lurking in jam jars and piggy banks and pockets and drawers...

Now cabbage is cool

You may have nightmare memories of boiled cabbage at school dinners, but forget them. These days, cabbage is totally cool.

It all has to do with the 'clean eating' craze that is sweeping the UK. Pickled cabbage can do no wrong, it seems. Sauerkraut and kimchi are appearing in all sorts of restaurants. Sales of cabbage at Sainsburys are up 39 per cent since Christmas, and sales of cider vinegar is up by 17 per cent.

The British Brassica Association asserts that cabbage is very good for you – high in vitamin C, vitamin K, and it also has anti-carcinogenic properties.



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SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

JUNE 2017

4 th JUNE - PENTECOST

All Saints' 8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

10.30am - Morning Prayer And Baptism - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

6.30pm - Evensong - Jan Humphries

St Andrew's - 9.30am - Joint Service - The Revd Peter Kerr

St Peter's - 10.30am - Joint Service At St Andrew's At 9.30am

11th JUNE - TRINITY

All Saint's - 8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

10.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

6.30pm - Evensong - Jan Humphries

St Andrew's - 9.30am - Morning Prayer - Jan Humphries

St Peter's - 10.30am - The Revd Canon Dr Alvyn Pettersen

18th JUNE - TRINITY I

All Saint's - 8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

10.30am - Joint Service - The Revd James Makepeace

6.30pm - Evensong - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

St Andrew's - 9.30am - Joint At All Saints At 10.30am

St Peter's - 10.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

25th JUNE - TRINITY 2

All Saints' 8am - The Revd Canon Judith Oliver

10.30am - The Revd Canon Judith Oliver

6.30pm - Compline - Jan Humphries

St Andrew's - 9.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

St Peter's - 10.30am - Morning Prayer - Suzanne Bradley