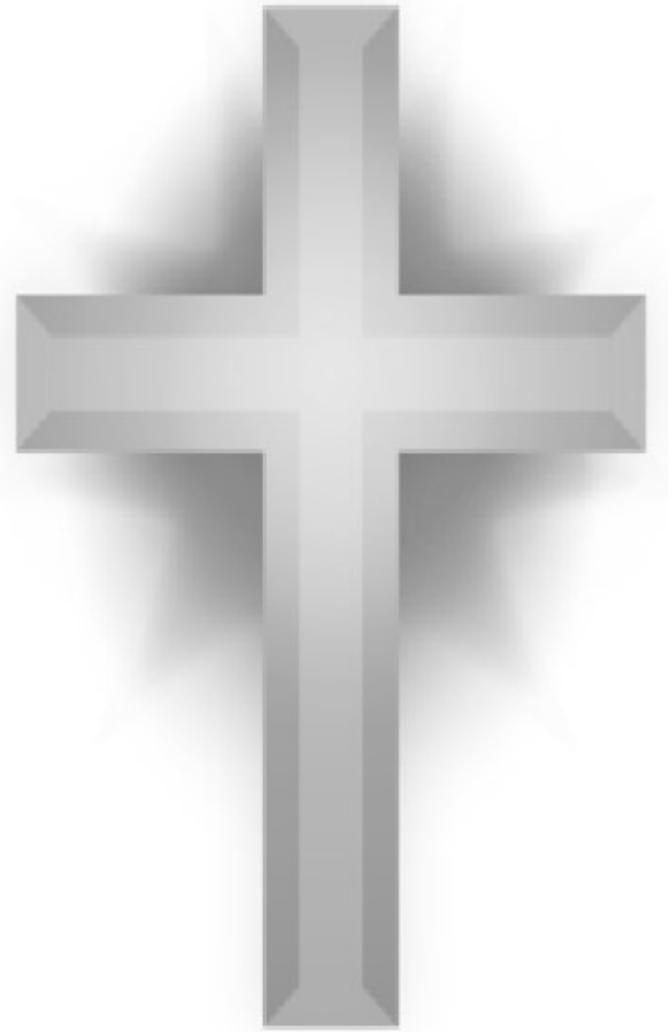
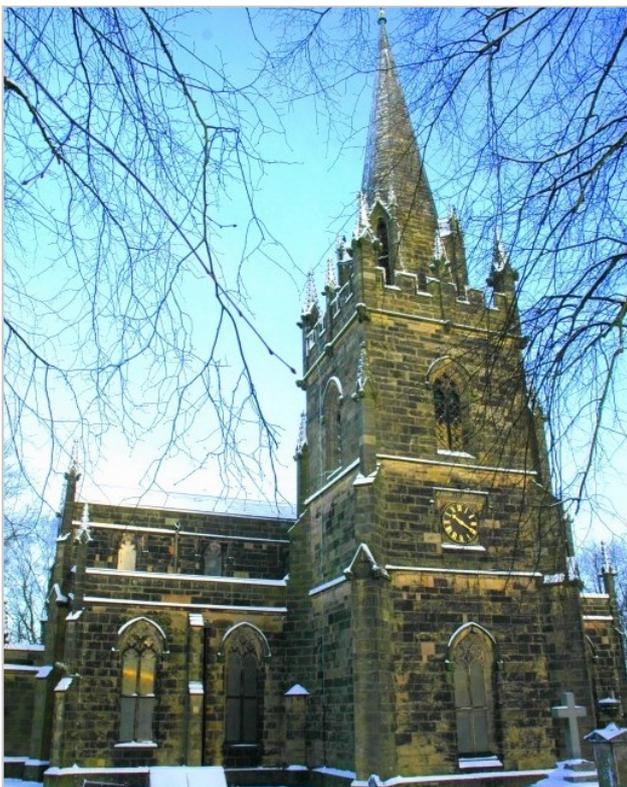


THE BEACON

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



50p

NOVEMBER 2017

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DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER 2017

Dates for Diary

Mothers' Union

November 7th - 2.30pm - World Travel - Pauline Turner

November 21st - 7.15pm Communion - Faith In Action - Margaret Penn

Mens' Society

November 20th - Travelling With My Camera - Gordon Nicklin

Baptisms

8th October - Havana Grace Middleton and Harper Rose Middleton at St Andrew's

22nd October - Joel Alfie Hunt, Henson James Porter, Kacie-May Madeleine Wood and Sienne-Rose Olivia Wood - All Saints'

Funerals

2nd October - Alan Butler - Gornal Wood

12th October - Betty Joan Payne - age 82 - St Andrew's

12th October - William Thomas Fellows - age 92 - Gornal Wood

13th October - May Bunch - age 92 - Gornal Wood

20th October - John Norman Tibbs - age 87 - Gornal Wood

High Days & Holy Days for November

1 All Saints' Day – the feast day of all the redeemed

1 The first martyrs – the 'seed' of the Christian Church

2 All Souls' Day – a time of reckoning with the past

3 Hubert and the stag

4 Charles Borromeo - the un-ordained archbishop

5 Guy Fawkes – an early terrorist

5 The Kea to toothache?

*6 NEW William Temple: Archbishop of Canterbury

6 Illtud – patron saint of NGOs?

6 The Martyrs of Vietnam d. 1745 - 1862

7 Willibrord of York – apostle of Frisia (658 - 739)

8 Four Crowned Martyrs

10 Leo the Great (d 461) – Pope who rescued the doctrine of the Incarnation

10 Justus – leading the Church in troubled times

11 Martin of Tours (316 – 397) – pioneer of western monasticism

13 Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850 – 1917) – first saint of New York City

17 Gregory of Tours (539 – 94) - charity and compassion in dangerous times

25 Catherine of Alexandria – patron saint of young girls and nurses

30 Andrew (d. c.60) – patron saint of Scotland

30 Andrew - first disciple of Jesus

THE BEACON

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

Keith Tomlinson : tel. 01902 673366.

The Beacon is published ten times a year and the cost for the year is £5. A larger typeface version of The Beacon can be provided on request.

Articles for the November magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

Friday 17th November

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

WEBSITE: www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk

CHURCH OPENING



**Friday mornings from
10.30am to 12.30pm**

The church is open for quiet prayer
& coffee and a chat.

Letter from the Bishop Of Dudley

Recently I made my first visit to the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield. It's a place of memory and hope, and I was particularly struck by the main memorial to those members of the armed forces who have died since 1945. Names are carved on about two thirds of the stone walls; sons and daughters, husbands and wives, mums and dads, who never came home. I found myself running a hand along the smooth wall for future years and wondered whose names would be there. I pondered to myself what pain was still to come, what tears and bloodshed, bullets and bombs? Oh, if only we could learn to make plough shares and pruning hooks. How, I wondered, could I make a difference towards building a little part of more peaceable world?

In 1940 a young twenty-five year old left his native Switzerland and moved to France wanting to make a difference. For years he had been ill with tuberculosis, and during that long convalescence the call to create a community had matured within him. At the height of the Second World War, Brother Roger, as he became known, realised that he could build a little part of a more peaceable world by assisting refugees.

He settled in the small Burgundy village of Taizé, close to the demarcation line dividing France in two, and it was there that he, together with one of his sisters, began sheltering refugees, including Jewish people. There was no running water, just the village well, and food was scarce.

Brother Roger's parents, knowing that their son and daughter were in danger, asked a retired French officer who was a friend of the family to watch over them. In the autumn of 1942, he warned them that their activities had been found out and that everyone should leave at once. So until the end of the war, it was in Geneva that Brother Roger lived and it was there that he began a common life with his first brothers. They were able to return to Taizé in 1944.

Since then Brother Roger's ecumenical community has grown to around 100 brothers. Each summer they are joined by thousands of young adults to spend a week seeking communion with God in prayer, singing, silence and reflection. Young people who spend time there often rediscover an inner peace, a meaning to life and a new impetus. Experiencing a simple life shared with others reminds us that daily life is the place where Christ is waiting for us.

Next July I am going to be leading a pilgrimage, together with the Bishop of Southampton in the Diocese of Winchester, to Taizé. I warmly invite 18 to 25 year olds to join me, but all of us can play a part in this pilgrimage. Please share this page with young people who you know, pray that they might respond to this invitation and please consider whether you or your PCC might sponsor one or more young people to go (it will cost around £200 per person). Do please let me know and I would be happy to send a personal invitation. My prayer is that this pilgrimage will encourage a generation of young people in their Christian life and witness as together we sing a song for peace.

5 Oct 2017

BISHOP GRAHAM

Thanks to grandparents

It seems that the Bank of Grandma and Grandad is the go-to one, these days. Recent research by the bank Santander found that 8% of first time house buyers are helped with their deposit by their grandparents.

And more than half (63%) of older house-owners would accept a fall in prices over the next two years if it would help young people buy a home, according to the National Housing Federation.

Mission Shaped Ministry (MSM)

I guess we are all aware of the fact that our churches are not as full as they once were in fairly recent times. Many of us are sad that the Gospel message, the love of God in Jesus, is not known by many people. God's love is transforming, but how do we share His love with the community in which we live?

If I were to ask you 'What shape is our church?', after you have got over the shock of such a question you may begin to think about our churches and what stands out about them. What do we do well? What could we do better?

In our Diocese and nationally the church is working hard to make the Gospel message known. One way of doing this is called 'Fresh Expressions' of church.

Simply put this includes 'doing church' in different ways; expressing church in a fresh way.

Do not panic, this does not mean we do everything differently! But in some places and in some ways we may do things differently! For example 'Singing Angels' based in St Andrew's is a new way of doing church, where the children come into church and sing songs of worship together, sing some secular songs, have some teaching and pray together.

For us to encourage people with the Gospel message so that their lives are transformed by the love of God is in truth why we are here. To explore fresh ways of doing this, sharing the unchanging Gospel, is important.

Bishop John and Bishop Graham in our Diocese of Worcester, and the Methodist church in Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District are delighted to have made a course called Mission Shaped Ministry available locally. They believe it will be a significant resource for building the Kingdom of God in this area.

A small group from our Parish, Catherine Mitchell, Jan Humphries, Jackie Hewlett and myself have started the course.

The *mission shaped ministry* course is described as ‘a one-year learning journey in a supportive community, equipping you for a lifetime of good practice and learning in planting and sustaining fresh expressions of church’.

Those who come on *mission shaped ministry* tend to do so:

as individuals and as teams;

as leaders and members, clergy and lay people, learning side by side;

as they prepare to start a fresh expression of church;

once they have already started a fresh expression of church;

because they want their existing church to be more mission-shaped.

Who is it for?

Those exploring how to begin, sustain and grow a fresh expression of church;

Experienced pioneers who want to reflect on what they are doing;

Those wanting to learn qualities of Christian ministry

Christians who want their churches to be more effective in mission;

All denominations, traditions and ages;

Urban, suburban and rural contexts.

Features of the course

Designed for busy Christians;

Delivered ecumenically;

Local and national teachers;

Reflection on your context and story;

Varied learning styles and resources;

Coaching, mentoring, learning networks;

Full materials and extra online material.

Modules include

Mission context;
The mission of God;
Vision, values and call;
Starting something new;
Listening for mission;
What is church?
Gospel and culture;
Team roles and behaviour;
Discipleship;
Evangelism;
Spirituality, worship and the sacraments;
Growing to maturity.

Please pray for those of us on the course as we explore together, and pray that God will show all of us how to best share his love; and when you have ideas to share, please share them!

With my love and prayers for you all,

Guy

Bible knowledge

A minister was approached by his small son who told him proudly, 'I finally figured out what the Bible means!' The minister thought of his extensive theological library and smiled indulgently. He asked his young son what he thought the Bible meant.

'It's easy, Daddy...' the young boy replied excitedly. 'It means 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'

Mothers' Union

At our evening meeting in September, Zhu and Kath treated us to a question and answer session on various aspects of 'Chinese Culture'.

Zhu told us that Buddhism is the dominant religion in China. Christianity is practiced by about 3% of the population, but is worshipped in people's houses, in secret, and often in fear of attacks. All parents want their children to do well. They start school at six years old, spend twelve years at school, working during the evenings as well, then on to university.

The Chinese language is very difficult to master. Zhu said how different tones in the voice change the meaning of words, some words that are written differently sounded the same to us. We heard about the Spring Festival which is the most important festival as it is the start of the Chinese New Year. Everyone makes a big effort to be re-united with their families at this time, often travelling very long distances. When Zhu was at university, it was a fifteen hour train journey to see her parents. Food varies markedly across the country. Zhu comes from the south-east and when she cooks, she cooks very spicy food with chillies and in the north-east the food is very salty. Near to Hong Kong, in the south-west, the food is Cantonese, which is what we get from Chinese takeaways in this country. We spent a very interesting and enjoyable evening, however the Williams family have not quite mastered the chopsticks, we were given, and will need a few more takeaways to practise!

Our afternoon meeting in September was a trip down memory lane with John Mobberley, who asked, 'Do you remember when...'. We were taken back to the end of the War and into the 1950's. Rationing, introduced during the war, continued into the early 1950's and there was the introduction of the 'National Loaf' in 1942, which was made with wholemeal flour with added calcium and vitamins. This was made to combat the wartime shortage of white flour, and was not very appetising! There was the Women's Timber Corp who helped the war effort as forestry workers providing pit props and telegraph poles. These women have recently been recognised, along with the Women's Land Army, with

the National Arboretum at Alrewas. Children played outside in safety and people's doors were always open. Many families purchased their first television to watch the Coronation. My grandparents bought one and invited neighbours to come and watch this historic event on their 10inch screen! John reminded us of the film 'The Blue Lamp' in which George Dixon was killed but then was resurrected in the TV series 'Dixon of Dock Green' – reminiscent of Dallas! We all remembered the school milk and having to thaw it out on the pipes. These memories invoked by John reminded us of happy, funny and poignant moments in our lives.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Betty Payne. Betty was a dedicated member of the Mothers' Union who will be sadly missed by all who knew her. We remember Terry and the family at this sad time and pray that treasured memories of Betty will sustain them in the days to come.

Our Christmas project is to provide small, filled gift bags for the women and children at New Beginnings, as we did last year. These are intended as a small gift for families when they arrive at the Refuge throughout the year. We have the bags and there will be a box in the narthex for your gifts.

Ideas for gift bags – Not Christmas items & No sweets
(sure you can think of many more)

crayons, felt pens, pencils, rubbers, etc hair slides, small colouring books
scrunchies cars children's DVD's combs brushes Jigsaws make up
brushes card games emery boards gloves, socks hand cream

Dates

7th Nov 2.30pm World Travel, Pauline Turner

21st Nov 7.15pm Communion followed by
Faith in Action, Margaret Penn

Liz Williams

Quiz Night

**Saturday 18th November
7.30pm in Church Hall**

£10 – Team of 4 (includes Ham or Cheese Roll)

Bring your own drinks

To register your team contact:

Tony Hart, Mike Edwards, Liz Williams, Kath Apperley,
or Gail in the Church Office

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



All Saints' Church, Sedgley will be holding a Christmas Tree Festival from Friday 1st December to Sunday 3rd December and Friday 8th December to Sunday 10th December. The theme this year is 'Rhymes & Verses' and each tree will be decorated to depict a different Nursery Rhyme or poem. There will be a Blessing of the Trees at 10.00am on Friday 1st December followed by singing from local school choirs. Admission will be free, light refreshments will be available and any donations during the weekends will be for Dementia UK & The Salvation Army.

We look forward to seeing you and your family and friends

Church leaders plan to mobilise congregations to talk about Jesus

People in Britain are open to finding out about Jesus Christ and the Christian faith – and churches of all denominations and ethnicities are preparing to mobilise practising Christians to make the most of every opportunity.

Leaders from 18 of the main Christian denominations gathered in the Lake District in September with leaders from Britain's fastest growing churches and ministries, to pray and consider how to make Jesus known together.

Surveys of British attitudes often highlight a story of decline in the Church. But the Windermere Leaders' Summit drew on the newly updated Talking Jesus survey of adults and teenagers (talkingjesus.org), which shows that people of all ages want to know more about Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

Dr Rachel Jordan-Wolf (Church of England) and Phil Timson (HOPE's Youth Director) unpacked the statistics which are available in a new booklet, *Talking Jesus – What Can I Do?* (available to order from cpo.org.uk/talkingjesus), which aims to help churches to think about how to make Jesus known.

Talking Jesus – What Can I Do? highlights the results of national surveys of adults' and young people's attitudes to Jesus, Christians and evangelism. The surveys found that 7% of adults and 13% of young people say they pray and read the Bible at least weekly and attend church at least monthly – for young people church attendance might include chapel services at faith schools, youth groups, Bible studies and prayer events.

The 16-page booklet, which can be used as a home group study resource, asks four key questions:

‘Who knows us and what do they think of us?’ – 1% of adults think of a church leader, and 1% of young people think of a Christian youth worker, as their first point of contact with a Christian’ – but 67% know a practising Christian who is a friend or family member.

‘What do people think of Jesus?’ – 60% of adults and 54% of young people think Jesus was a real person who actually lived, but 18% of adults and 19% of young people don’t know whether Jesus was real or fictional – statistics that will encourage Christians to be more vocal about their faith.

‘Are the people we know having conversations about Jesus?’ – the surveys show that 41% of adults and 48% of young people haven’t had a conversation about faith in Jesus with the practising Christian they know. But having had a conversation about Jesus, one in five adults and one in six young people wanted to know more (of those who didn’t become Christians as a result of a conversation about Jesus).

‘How have people come to know Jesus?’ – top influences were growing up in a Christian family (41% of adults and 40% of young people); having conversations with Christians (36% of adults, and 15% of young people); reading the Bible (27% of adults and 22% of young people); attending a standard church service (28% of adults and 18% of young people); having an experience of the love of Jesus (24% of adults); having a spiritual experience they couldn’t explain (17% of adults and 18% of young people); attending Sunday school (18% of young people).

*This definition of ‘practising Christians’ is tighter than the definition used in the 2015 Talking Jesus report which referred to those who pray and read the Bible at least monthly and attend church at least monthly as ‘practising Christians’.



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'Rhymes & Verses'

All Saints' Church, Sedgley

**Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd December
&
Friday 8th - Sunday 10th December**

Friday & Saturday - 10am - 4pm

Sundays – 2pm – 4pm



**Friday 1st December, Blessing of Trees
at 10am followed by school choirs**

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Donations to Dementia UK & The Salvation Army

Women and the priesthood – 25 years on

On 11th November 1992, millions of people were watching the unfolding events at Church House, Westminster. The General Synod of the Church of England was in session, and, after 20 years of debate, here was another chance for the Synod to allow women in the priesthood. The BBC were there to broadcast the debate to the nation.

There were crowds outside: plenty supporting the legislation, plenty opposing. During one debate, a small procession had borne a black coffin into Dean's Yard proclaiming the death of the Church of England, should it ordain women as priests.

Chairing the Synod, the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, invited the Bishop of Guildford, the Rt Revd Michael Adie, to propose the motion. The Ven David Silk, Archdeacon of Leicester, stood to oppose the motion, only to be interrupted by a fire alarm.

The Archdeacon started again and the debate continued, one speech for, one against, for five hours. Synod sat in silent prayer before casting their votes: House of Bishops 39 'for' and 13 'against', House of Clergy 176 'for' and 74 'against', and House of Laity 169 'for' and 82 'against'. That was two-third majorities in each House, as required: just two Laity votes the other way would have halted the legislation.

On 12th March, 1994, at Bristol Cathedral, the first women were ordained into the Church of England's priesthood. Many reports sought to name the 'first woman priest' but none were accurate. Most chose the first name alphabetically but actually all the candidates are ordained simultaneously, so there were, in fact, 32 'first women priests'.

But it wasn't that simple. Parliament had insisted the Church of England make provision for those opposed: 1000 clergy had threatened to leave. The Act of Synod, passed in 1993, allowed parishes not to accept ordained women and to seek oversight from a Provincial Episcopal Visitor (flying bishop) if their own bishop ordained women. The legality of ordaining women was even challenged in civil courts.

Today, of 19,550 clergy in the Church of England, more than a quarter, 5,690, are women. Of 7,790 stipendiary (paid) clergy, 2,160 are women. Of 544 future clergy beginning training this autumn, 274 are women. And, in November 2014, 22 years after that historic vote, the Synod voted for women as bishops. The Rt Revd Libby Lane, Bishop of Stockport, was the first to be consecrated. Canon Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, as the first Bishop of Loughborough, will be the eleventh.

Praying for a brother

A small boy badly wanted a baby brother, so his dad suggested he pray every night for one. The boy prayed earnestly, night after night, but his prayers seemingly weren't answered. After a few weeks, he didn't bother to ask anymore.

Some months later, his dad said they were going to see his mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. 'Well, what do you think about having twin brothers?' his dad asked.

The little boy thought for a moment and replied, 'It's a good thing I stopped praying when I did.'

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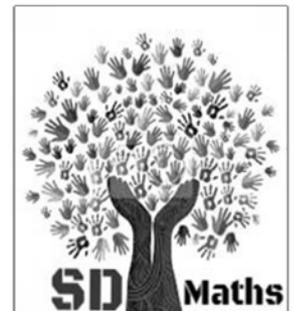


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Bedazzle Charity

Ben Cole of the charitable organisation, Bedazzle, gave an inspiring talk of the work he and his colleagues carry out in the support of young people with social and mental health issues. The team has a wealth of skills and experience and belief in the development and success of young people. The Police and Fire Services are also involved.

The aim is to keep young people off the streets by providing opportunities through leisure and art activities to assist in their personal, social and health education advancement. Training can lead to accreditation qualifications.

Anyone in need can access the services of Bedazzle through their helpline, website or social media.

One to one support is offered through mentoring and counselling. Parents, schools and community groups become involved. Activities and guidance aim to promote social inclusion to prevent young people from becoming socially excluded.

Donations are needed so that Staff can be fully trained, and services offered free at a time when Public Sector Services are facing drastic cuts.

As a registered charity, Bedazzle is able to apply for Government and Lottery funding.

In the last year funding has enabled work to be done in the West Midlands, Birmingham and London areas with parents, schools (Primary and Secondary) and community groups in their approach to helping children and young people become more resilient and emotionally balanced.

A charity worthy of support, so with a collection and donation from funds, a total of £200 was handed to Ben Cole for the continued work of Bedazzle.

Hope to see you in November.

Anne

Justice and peace - what do Christians believe?

Millions of people have kind hearts and want to help those who are poor or in distress. But when men and women start to follow Jesus earnestly, they discover that, deep within them, their view of the world is changing. Seeing the world through God's eyes, they recognise that there is an urgent need to change the world, so that justice is done and peace is achieved in the way that God desires.

It is central to the Christian faith that God desires a world in which justice is done. However, the past hundred years have revealed the scale of injustice in the world to be greater than anyone had previously imagined. Global forces that are deeply unfair determine the destiny of the world's poorest people and cause damage to the planet's environment. War and suffering follow.

Striving for justice and working for peace, particularly for the world's poorest people, are at the heart of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. The good news that Jesus came to announce was that suffering and oppression could be brought to an end. Christians believe that their faith should lead them to be the people who help bring that about.

The challenge Christians face is to have a personal way of life that does not add to the world's problems. This means adopting a simple lifestyle, in which the world's resources are not wasted, buying goods that have been fairly traded, and changing habits that damage the environment. In the richer parts of the world, many of them support and give money to organisations that are seeking to improve the conditions of the world's poorest people, to end conflicts, and to preserve the planet.

The word peace is used in the Bible in a very broad sense. It takes in the wellbeing and health of people, as well as the absence of violence. Christians pray for the end of conflict between nations and religions. But they are also called to promote harmony in their communities, families and anywhere that they can make a practical difference.

Many followers of Jesus say that seeking justice and working for peace gives their lives a great sense of fulfilment. They know that their ways are becoming more like God's ways. And they know that they are making the experience of being alive better for all the people God has lovingly placed on the earth.

You can find answers to questions about Christianity at www.christianity.org.uk. It is the website of the Christian Enquiry Agency, an agency of Churches Together in England.

Hubert and the stag

The morality of hunting has made the headlines in recent years, but here at least was one man who was converted while hunting. Hubert (bishop, d 727 AD) was out on Good Friday hunting stag when he came across a stag with a crucifix between its antlers. This so shook him that he converted to Christianity, and went on to become Bishop of Tongres-Maestricht. History does not tell us if he killed the stag or not, or if he ever hunted stag again.

* * * * *

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17th November from 11am till 2pm

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St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

No, I do not think it would be a good idea for us to correspond by your wretched 'e-mail' in future – as I am sure you know I do not possess an email apparatus. At St. James the Least, we may well be poised to make the great leap forward into the next century, but when we do so, we shall leap forward into the nineteenth; it will be enough for future generations to give consideration to progression towards the twentieth. Beyond that does not bear speculation.

Pen and ink has been the medium of choice for generations of clergy, as they should be for you too. St. Paul, may I remind you, did not send a What'sApp to the Corinthians - and was even proud to mention that part of his letter was written by his own hand. And while I am on the subject, it would greatly please me if you stopped using ball-point pens; they may be suitable for tradesmen, but not for a Clerk in Holy Orders. Do get yourself a good fountain pen and some permanent blue-black ink. Beware of parishioners who write to you in green ink; it is a sure sign they are unbalanced.

Modern technology may well have a place in the commercial world, but it should not impinge on the life of the Church. Your photocopied monthly magazine admittedly looks rather grand, but it needs a smudged, cyclostyled edition to re-assure readers that this is a truly Anglican production. The sight of Miss Pemberton thumping out those stencils on her grandfather's typewriter, which he used during the Crimean

running off the copies and emerging hours later liberally covered in black ink gives a re-assuring sense of continuity with the past. Seeing her days later at church, still stained with printers' ink, makes those parishioners who don't know the real reason, speculate on whether she is moonlighting as a chimney sweep.

When Jesus taught His disciples, did He have to wait until they could record Him on their smartphones? When He told them where they were to go, did they get out their electronic diaries to see if they had a 'window' that day? Or google 'maps' to make sure He knew the quickest way there? When St. Paul wanted to check on the well-being of the Thessalonians, did he think of texting them? I rest my case.
Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Under the Thorn Tree: when Revival comes

by Richard Bewes, Christian Focus, £9.99

This is a heart-warming book of stories of people's sheer joy in finding Jesus. "I wrote it," Richard explains, "having grown up in East Africa during a great spiritual awakening, in which many, many thousands were added to the Church, including in our own land of Kenya. I've explored the biblical and historical instances of similar movements, including the Wesley awakening and others - including in America, Wales, the Hebrides, Korea, Indonesia, the Sudan - and plenty more." Revival comes with the sole pursuit of Jesus - He encompasses everything.

Some thoughts on remembering

Remember me as the poppies fall
On the shoulders, heads, and at the feet
Of young and old,
All gathered for the Festival.

Remember me in the music played,
In the clapping of the audience,
Keeping time
And uniforms so proudly worn.

Remember me in the stories told,
Most from the distant past, but others new,
Each one rehearsing memories stored or
In the making.

Remember me -
And if a tear should chance to flow
Then let it flow for the world in pain,
And dedicate yourself to peace.

For you are my memorial.
And your life, if lived for others,
Is my legacy.

By Sam Doubtfire

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Grants to help an older person

Every winter we read that many elderly people have to choose between heating their homes or buying food to eat. And for some, it can be a struggle to make ends meet throughout the year. The charity, Friends of the Elderly, makes grants to older people as part of its mission to support them, especially those in need due to isolation or poverty.

Applications are made by referring organisations working in local communities, and a quick call on 0330 332 1110 confirmed that churches could apply. The monies are to go towards utility bills, household repairs and adaptations, mobility aids and essential items that support daily living, and the cost of equipment such as tablets and broadband to help people stay connected. More details at <http://www.fote.org.uk/>

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Palm Oil and the Environment

The Traidcraft organisation uses organic and certified palm oil in their products. Last year they started work with an organisation called Natural Habitats who supply FairPalm. They are based in northern Ecuador, and Traidcraft staff has helped them achieve a better supply chain, and improvements to their process.

Natural Habitat support their farmers with agricultural training, health care and even football coaching for over 200 local children. The farmer associations decide for themselves how to use the Fair trade premium that they earn. Last year they used some of it to help the earthquake stricken areas in the north of the country. Part had been used to repair the local church – ‘the centre of life for all the community in good and bad times’.

More and more farmers are becoming interested in introducing organic practices, due to the fact that Natural Habitats’ plantations are looking healthier and stronger than the conventional plantations.

‘When the palm is grown organically and the sales are under fair trading conditions, the land and the farmers say THANK YOU!’

So – do buy from our Clean and Fair product range and help the farmers of Ecuador produce more good palm oil!

Fair Trade team

Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850 – 1917) – first saint of New York City

In the aftermath of the terrorist attack on America 16 years ago this autumn, many Americans were seen to be ‘saintly’ in their brave attempts to help save lives. But Frances was the first citizen of the United States to be officially canonised as a saint – by Pope Pius XII in 1946.

She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and worked among orphans, children and the sick of New York.

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

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

The impact of transitions on children

When the adults in a family with children change – either because of divorce, death, or change of partner if a couple cohabit, such a change is called a ‘transition’. When this happens, children are inevitably impacted.

Now children who are under 12 years of age have been measured in an international study. It indicated that, in general, transitions cause instability for the children, and such often impacts their development.

The study found that the greatest degree of stability (that is the fewest number of transitions) was in homes where the two adults were married. Even so, 32% of marriages in the UK suffer a rupture in the first 12 years of their child’s life. If the parents are cohabiting, the likelihood is twice this percentage, at 60%, and for single parents it is 73%.

The study found that the UK had the highest rates of transition, for both married and cohabiting couples. The nearest country to us was the United States, with percentages, respectively, of 24% and 45%. The average across the rest of Europe for transitions with married couples before their child was 12 was just 9%, and for cohabiting couples, 17%.

What this shows is that when measured over the first 12 years of their (first) child’s life, the likelihood of a break in relationships between the parents was twice as great if the couple were cohabiting than if they were married.

If the couple are British the likelihood of a break-up, however, is almost four times that seen across the rest of Europe, both for those married and cohabiting.



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SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

NOVEMBER 2017

5th November

All Souls

8am - The Revd Guy Hewlett

10.30am - Team Service - Patronal - The Revd Guy Hewlett preaching and The Revd Catherine Mitchell preside

6.30pm - The Revd Catherine Mitchell—Evensong

St Andrew's - 9.30am - No Service As Service At All Saints' 10.30am

St Peter's - 10.30am - No Service As Service At All Saints' 10.30am

12th November

All Saints' - Remembrance

8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

10.30am - Civic Service - The Revd Guy Hewlett

6.30pm - The Revd Guy Hewlett

St Andrew's - 9.30am - Family Service - Canon Jan Humphries

St Peter's - 10.45am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell - No Communion

19th November

All Saints'

8am - The Revd Guy Hewlett

10.30am - Canon Jan Humphries

6.30pm - Canon Jan Humphries—Evensong

St Andrew's - 9.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett

St Peter's - 10.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett

26th November

All Saints'

8am - The Revd Guy Hewlett

10.30am - JOINT SERVICE WITH ST ANDREW'S AT ALL SAINTS—
WITH THE REVD GUY HEWLETT

6.30pm - The Revd Catherine Mitchell - Compline

St Andrew's - 9.30am - NO SERVICE AS JOINT SERVICE AT ALL
SAINTS—10.30AM

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