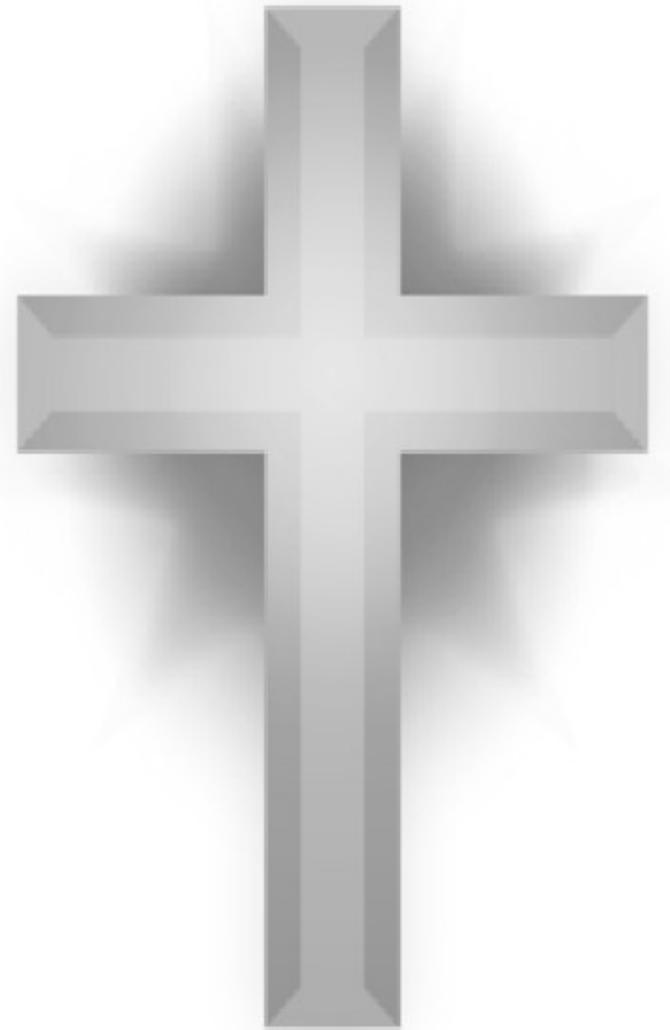
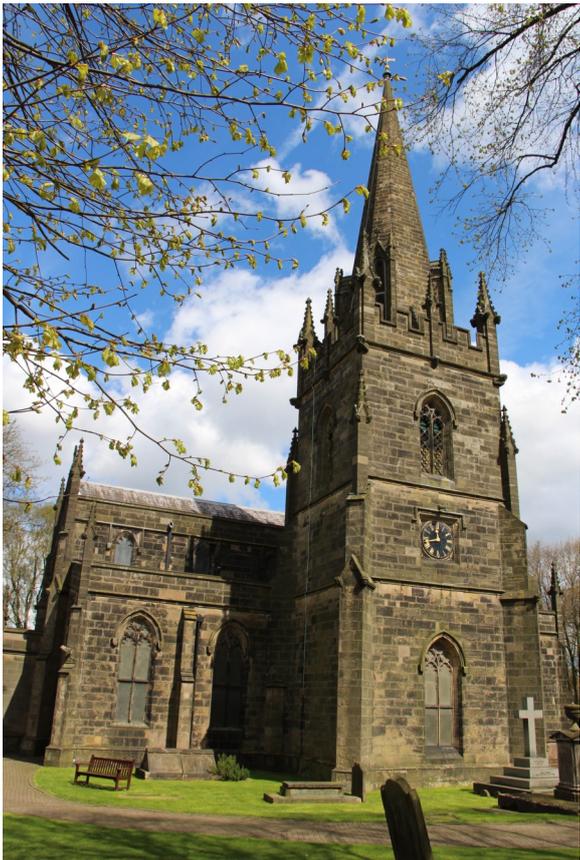


THE BEACON

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

Registered Charity Number 1179471



Kingdom People
love • compassion • justice • freedom

50p

SEPTEMBER 2018

WHO's WHO

| | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------|
| Team Rector | Revd Guy Hewlett | 01902 295164 |
| Team Vicar | Catherine Mitchell | 01902 677897 |
| Licensed Lay Minister | Canon Jan Humphries | 01902 661275 |
| Parish Safeguarding Officer | Barbara Baker | 01902 882847 |
| Pastoral Care | Tracey Bate | 01902 680727 |
| Worship Leader | Suzanne Bradley | 01902 880055 |
| Youth Leader/Children's Advocate | 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 |

St Andrew's Who's Who

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Warden | Canon Jan Humphries | |
| Treasurer | Gordon Betteley | 01902 882777 |
| DCC secretary | Rosemary Reed | 01902 679007 |
| Little Angels baby & toddler group | Canon Jan Humphries | |
| Singing Angels | Claire Cox | 07812 010108 |

DIARY DATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

- Ladies Society - September 3rd - Cheese and Wine Evening
- Mothers' Union - September 4th - 2.30pm - Discover U
September 25th - 7.30pm - From Cleaner to Canon -
Jan Humphries
- Mens' Society - September 17th - The Great Dudley Port Explosion -
Chris Smith
- St Peters - September 14th - Beetle Drive

Funerals

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------|
| July 12th - | Janet Deakin - | All Saints |
| July 17th - | Tracy Marsh - | Gornal Wood |
| July 18th - | Benjamin Timmins - | Gornal Wood |
| August 2nd - | Robert Turner - | Bushbury |
| August 8th - | Josephine Slater - | Bushbury |
| August 16th - | Arthur Burgwin - | Gornal Wood |
| August 24th - | Joyce Parkes - | All Saints |
| August 29th - | Dorothy Hipkiss - | All Saints |

High Days & Holy Days for September

- 1st Sept Drithelm – vision of the after-life
- 1st Sept St Giles of Provence – helping those damaged by life
- 2nd Sept The New Guinea Martyrs of 1942
- 2nd Sept St William of Roskilde – standing up for social justice
- 3rd Sept St Gregory the Great – the man who saved the ‘angels’
- 5th Sept Laurence Giustiniani – the saint who knew how to help a beggar
- 6th Sept Allen Gardiner – founder of the South American Missionary Society
- 8th Sept The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 9th Sept St Peter Claver – compassion for slaves
- 11th Sept St Protus and St Hyacinth – victims of mindless violence
- 11th Sept St Deiniol of Bangor – bringing disagreeing bishops together
- 13th Sept St John Chrysostom – living a public faith
- 14th Sept Holy Cross Day
- 15th Sept St Adam of Caithness – the way NOT to tithe
- 16th Sept Ninian, Bishop of Galloway – Apostle of the Picts (Scotland)
- 16th Sept Cornelius – the saint who had mercy on sinning Christians
- 18th Sept St Joseph of Copertino – the awkward saint
- 20th Sept The Martyrs of Korea
- 21st Sept St Matthew
- 23rd Sept When the sun goes edgewise – and daytime equals night
- 24th Sept St Gerard Sagredo – church planting in the 11th century
- 25th Sept St Ceolfrith (d 716) – baking and Bibles
- **NEW 27th Sept Vincent de Paul – devotion to the poor and oppressed
- 28th Sept St Lioba – a memorable woman
- 29th Sept Michael and All Angels
- 29th Sept Angels Unawares
- 29th Sept Enter all the angels, led by Michael

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 July magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

Friday 21st September

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.

VESTRY HOUR

If you know anyone who wishes to enquire about weddings or baptisms, please tell them that from 1st February, the Vestry Hour will only be held on the first and third Sundays in each month, from 12noon to 1.00pm.

Letter from Archdeacon of Worcester

By Robert Jones Archdeacon of Worcester

On the news the other day they reported a study which showed that most people check their mobile phone every twelve minutes, with many looking at messages within five minutes of waking up. I remember seeing a cartoon of a family sitting at their meal, all reading their phones or tablets, and the caption read: 'At breakfast the family was best left to their own devices.' Given how much we now depend on them to talk to people, I do wonder why we never used to see long queues outside telephone boxes. (You might have to explain to your children what a telephone box is!).

Undoubtedly, the internet has opened up new possibilities of communication, but like any new invention we need to develop a way of using it ethically and well.

It is ever so easy to press the button to see who wants to get in touch, and it is rather nice to know. It's important to develop good practice so that we learn how to get the best out of the technology without it taking us over.

Some words from Pope Francis' encyclical; 'Rejoice and be glad' grabbed my attention: 'The presence of constantly new gadgets, the excitement of travel and an endless array of consumer goods at times leave no room for God's voice to be heard. We are overwhelmed by words, by superficial pleasures and by an increasing din, filled not by joy, but rather by the discontent of those whose lives have lost meaning. How can we fail to realise the need to stop this rat race and to recover the personal space needed to carry on a heartfelt dialogue with God?'

Recovering personal space seems a pretty good idea to me, allowing space for God and for our flourishing. That's a lesson I often still need to learn myself!

There is a strand in the Bible which suggests that wisdom waits. Yet technology creates an expectation of immediacy. Do you remember the email which you sent spontaneously, and afterwards wished you hadn't? Personal space leads to reflective space, and I can't help thinking we need more reflecting and less reacting.

When I've finished writing this, I will email it as an attachment and magazine editors will receive it on a website. That's the wonderful thing about technology. Then I'll go and make myself a cup of coffee and instead of picking up my phone I might just go out into the garden for a few minutes, bathed as it is in beautiful sunshine. Or there again, has someone just messaged me? Shall I take a quick look?

Robert Jones

How to get to heaven

The teacher asked her Sunday School class: 'If sold my house and my car, had a big car boot sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into Heaven?' 'No!' the children all answered.

'If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the grass, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into Heaven?' Again, the answer was, 'No!' 'Well,' she continued, 'then how can I get into Heaven?' A five-year-old boy shouted out, 'You've got to be dead first!'

Hearing is not believing

A wise schoolteacher sent this note to all parents on the first day of school: 'If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he or she says happens at home.'

Heritage Open Weekends

This year's heritage open weekends are on 6 -9 and 13 – 16 September.

By Sam Setchell Communications Officer

Over two weekends at the beginning of September, many of our churches will be taking part in the national Heritage Open Days event. Every year in September, historic places across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history. It's a chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences, all for free. This year there are two weekends being held: 6-9 & 13-16 September. Church Building Project Manager, Kate Andrew said: "It's fantastic that so many of our churches are engaging with the Heritage Open Days. It really is a great opportunity to reach those who might not normally go into a church. We've got loads of history and stories to share with people and it's also a good way for parishes to begin thinking about how they might interpret their buildings for a wider audience, learning things along the way about the church that they probably had no idea of before."

For those churches who are regularly open, the weekends provide a chance to give people an insight into areas where they might not normally be allowed. St Mary's, Kidderminster and St Stephen's in Redditch will both give visitors the opportunity to go up their towers and at Top Church in Dudley people will be able to book to visit the Medieval crypt. "At the very least, I hope that most churches will be open with some refreshments provided," continued Kate. "It's a chance to show those from the local community and beyond what's been happening in our churches and for PCCs to consult visitors on future plans."

Hear our prayer?

A five-year-old said grace at family dinner one night. 'Dear God, thank you for these pancakes...' When he concluded, his parents asked him why he thanked God for pancakes when they were eating chicken. 'I wanted to see if He was paying attention tonight.'

New Readers to be licensed

This year's Reader licensing service is on Saturday 15 September.

By Sam Setchell Communications Officer

On Saturday 15 September, six people will be admitted to the office of Reader in a service at the Cathedral. The service will be conducted by Bishop John, who will license the individuals to minister in the parishes they have been called to serve.

Readers are trained and licensed lay ministers in the Church of England authorised in particular to exercise a ministry of preaching and teaching. They undergo a two year training course before being admitted to the role, which ends with the award of a Certificate in Higher Education by the University of Durham. After being licensed they carry out a wide range of tasks within their parishes and beyond, especially helping others to reflect on their faith and how it relates to their daily lives.

The new Readers are:

- Fiona Carter who will serve in the benefices of Bowbrook North, and Stoke Prior, Wychbold and Upton Warren
- Roger King, who will serve in the benefice of St Mary, Oldswinford in Stourbridge
- Alison Martin, who will serve in the benefices of Hanley Castle, Hanley Swan and Welland, and Upton-on-Severn, Ripple, Earls Croome w Hill Croome & Strensham
- Mary Phillips who will serve in the benefice of Holy Trinity, Amblecote
- Nick Stephens, who will serve in the benefice of St Nicholas, Warnon

Vikki Day, who will be admitted and licensed as a Reader and who will continue to serve as Stourport Deanery Mission Developer.

Please pray for all the candidates as they begin this new step on their journey of faith.

Hi for those I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet I am Helen Laird, your Mission Enabler. Sedgley & Gornal is my second placement, as a Mission Enabler, having been previously placed in Halesowen with the Lovely Halas Team.



A bit about me, my husband is called Jamie we have two children (Sarah 26 & Alex 22) and a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel called Tilly. I was previously employed within the Methodist Church as a Mission Enabler and by my own church for over ten years as a children's and Youth Worker, where I ran toddlers groups, mid-week children's clubs, holiday clubs, youth groups, messy churches, assemblies, RE lessons and Experience Easter events. I am also an Open The Book trainer, so I hope you can see that I come with lots of experience. I also bring with me a passion to enable children and young people to hear about the love of Jesus Christ in age appropriate and relevant ways, so that; they too may choose Him as their saviour.

The Calling Young Disciples Project is a part of the Worcester Diocese Kingdom People Vision. Where we work with churches across the Diocese, helping them to strengthen their engagement with children, young people and their families, as Mission Enablers we are not here to 'do' the work for you, but to enthuse, equip and to walk alongside you on your journey. We do not come with a 'Mary Poppins' bag of tricks we can open that will solve everything. We do come with a determined heart, enthusiasm for the work, experience to share, and time we can devote to serving you while you serve the children, young people and families in your parish.

As part of the CYD project a few people from across the churches will have been invited to join the CYD Hub, these are people that will help move the project along, they will be expected to go to a Friday evening all day Saturday training, visioning event twice a year for the duration of the three year project, and will once I have left your Parish keep the wheels of the project turning.

I look forward to meeting with you all and learning what hopes and dreams you have for your churches. If you would like to discuss any of the above please speak to me either by email hlaird@cofe-worcester.org.uk or tel/text 0793 117 5890 or contact the clergy team.

Introduction of monthly BCP Communion

The ministry team, Guy, Catherine and Jan, are pleased to announce the introduction of a new service on the 4th Sunday of the month at 6:30pm. Well, we say new, it is actually a well-known traditional communion service from the Book of Common Prayer which has been around, in various forms, since 1662!

The Book of Common Prayer contains the foundational liturgical services of the Church of England, and contains the whole range of services including Morning and Evening Prayer, Communion, Baptism, Ordination, Marriage etc and the doctrinal understandings of the church in the 39 Articles.

The language of the service, for some people, will be quite different from what we're used to today, however, it does contain language that is beautiful and poetic, and which many people find helpful.

The BCP Communion will replace the current Compline service at 6:30pm on the 4th Sunday, and is in line with the style of service that is experienced 3 other Sundays of the month at Evensong.

We hope that this change will enhance the parish's worship experience, and would welcome any comments, please speak to one of us in the Ministry Team. The plan is to review the service in the New Year to see how it's going.

Blessings

Guy, Catherine and Jan

Thank-you

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all church friends for prayers, cards and messages of encouragement during my recent illness.

I am now well on the road to recovery and hope to be in church soon.

Anne Wakefield

Peace for our time?

By Tim Lenton.

Eighty years ago this month, on 30th September 1938, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain returned to England in triumph after signing the Munich Agreement with Hitler, declaring there would be “peace for our time”.

This is often misquoted as “peace in our time” (as in the Book of Common Prayer) and in that form was used by others such as US Presidents Kennedy and Obama. As used by Chamberlain it was part of his policy of appeasement leading up to the Second World War.

The agreement with Hitler, described as “peace with honour”, was in fact far from that. It effectively sacrificed Czechoslovakia in the vain hope of avoiding war – and made the loss of that war more likely, because Hitler was spurred on by Britain’s perceived weakness. But Chamberlain acted on expert advice, which was that Britain could not survive a war with Germany in 1938.

Winston Churchill strongly opposed the Munich agreement, saying “there could never be friendship between the British democracy and the Nazi power ... which spurns Christian ethics”. But when Chamberlain died in 1940 of colon cancer, Churchill was generous in his praise, noting his ‘physical and moral toughness of fibre, precision of mind and firmness of spirit’.

MOTHERS' UNION

Margaret Penn was the speaker at our evening meeting in July which was held at St Andrew's and began with Communion, led by Revd Guy. Margaret talked about the many projects which we support as we continue to 'Walk in Mary Sumner's Footsteps' in today's world.

We had a beautifully sunny day for our outing to Stratford - upon - Avon in June. It was pleasant strolling through the town, down to the river, pausing for coffee and lunch before boarding a boat for a relaxing cruise down the Avon passed the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and the church where Shakespeare is buried. Back on dry land and time for some refreshment, before making our way back to the coach for the return journey to Sedgley.

A lovely afternoon was spent at our Cream Tea in July.

Everyone enjoyed the tea, all of which was provided by the committee – plus Jan's Mum's delicious scones. We raised £384 which was split between All Saints' and St Andrew's Churches and Mothers' Union. The £128 for Mothers' Union has been sent to the 'Summer of Hope' appeal which will help 'Hope' blossom for families and communities both here and abroad. The Diocese of Worcester Mothers' Union Trustees have agreed to match fund branch donations for this appeal and thus £256 has been sent to the 'Summer of Hope' appeal.

The Mary Sumner Day service at Holy Trinity, Amblecote was led by Father Alan, who gave an excellent and thought - provoking address, which was followed by a buffet lunch. We were, as always, made most welcome and it was enjoyable to share worship and fellowship with members from other branches. Thanks to Margaret who came with Chris and I to the service.

Dates

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 4th Sept | 2.30pm | Discover U | Steve |
| 25th Sept | 7.30pm | From Cleaner to Canon - Jan Humphries | |

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING
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WWI Timeline - Events of 1918

August 1918

8th - Allied Amiens Offensive, (or Second Battles of the Somme 1918).

Battle of Amiens begins, (ends 11th August).

Battle of Montdidier begins, (ends 15th August).

15th - Last bombardment of Paris by German long-range gun.

17th - Second Battle of Noyon (retaken by French Forces 29th August)

British Advance in Flanders begins: Action of Outtersteene Ridge.

19th - Merville retaken by British Forces.

21st - Phase 2 of 2nd Battles of the Somme 1918, begins with the Battle of Albert, (ends 22nd August). Second Battle of Bapaume begins.

26th - 2nd Battle of Arras 1918 begins with Battle of Scarpe.

Major battles: Amiens, 8-11 August.

In July the allied attacks had shown the effectiveness of "all-arms" battle tactics: troops and tanks advancing behind artillery 'creeping barrage' as ground-attack aircraft swept overhead. At Amiens these were put into operation to great effect.

The offensive began with British, Australian, Canadian and French troops attacking the east of the city. The Australians took 8,000 prisoners on the first day. The Canadians advanced the furthest: 8 miles. They took 5,000 prisoners. (10 million rounds of small-arms ammunition was supplied to the Canadian Corps.)

Parish of Gornal and Sedgley

Vision Day - 14th Oct 2018

Dear Friends

It has now been just over a year since the new ministry team was fully formed with Guy's licensing on 3rd September last year. It's been a busy and exciting year with much going on in our churches and parish.

We have introduced new service liturgies for the different seasons, and new baptism service booklets. By and large these liturgies have been well received and they have enabled our services to be more accessible to both our current congregations and those visiting and seeking to know more about the Christian faith.

We have had some very successful special services across the parish too, introducing a healing service on 5th Sundays at All Saints; memorial services, Remembrance services and Christmas services, where we have been able to welcome many people from the community and our local schools into the churches. Again, this year we had a successful Christmas tree festival at All Saints, with many more people joining us during the Sedgley Christmas lights switch on event.

We have welcomed many people to our churches through occasional offices of baptisms, weddings and funerals; where we have been able to tell people about the hope that can be found in faith and trust Jesus Christ.

The parish is blessed through our connections with the local uniformed groups, with new connections with the Sedgley groups, and new relationships with the Upper Gornal groups being formed. We are also blessed with the ongoing success of Singing Angels at St Andrews and the pre-school groups of Little Angels and Noah's Ark.

As we look forward, there are a number of initiatives that we have been working on and continue to do so, namely looking at more accessible

worship, both Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic under the umbrella of Worship for All; we continue to be challenged with the situation with St Peter's church building; however we are excited with the potential of Helen Laird coming to the parish for a year to help us with our engagement with children, young people, and families.

Other initiatives and activities include registering our parish as a charity; three Lent groups and a home group who have been working through the Alpha Course and adopting the Diocese initiative of Kingdom People in our thinking and ministry.

As we start our second year together we are keen for our church communities to have input into our direction of travel in our ministry and mission; to give all our church members an opportunity to be part of this next phase of our parish life together.

On Sunday 14th October our parish will be having a parish vision day; please put this day in your diaries and make every effort to be part of this important day.

On this day there will be only one service in the Parish, which will be a Eucharist service at 10:30 at All Saints church, which we want to encourage everyone to attend. After the service, we'll gather together in the hall for a picnic lunch which will be followed by a time of reflection and discussion on the direction of travel for our parish.

The framework for our time together will be the Diocesan initiative called Signs of the Kingdom which has 8 Characteristics for a healthy church.

The 8 characteristics are:

1. Deeply rooted in prayer and study of the scriptures
2. Renewed and transformed by regular worship
3. Equipped to witness to the Gospel of love, compassion and freedom

4. Dedicated to helping children and young people to belong and nurtured in faith
5. Devoted to growing deeply as disciples, offering our time, talents and money to God
6. Resourced and released to minister to others
7. Ready to engage with and serve our community
8. Committed to making our buildings fit for purpose as a spiritual and community resource.

Prior to our time together we will be seeking your input by giving you all a Signs of the Kingdom booklet, which explains this initiative in greater detail, and asking each member to rate each characteristic by how you feel we currently stand. There will be rating charts for each characteristic in each church from the beginning of September. There will also be an opportunity on each rating chart to give suggestions, comments, hopes and dreams.

The results of rating charts will be available and discussed at the vision day on 14th October.

We hope this will be a helpful exercise for everyone to reflect on where our parish is at the moment, what we feel are our main priorities are in the short, medium and long term.

There will be further information regarding the format of the vision day and also on filling out the rating charts nearer the time; if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Guy, Catherine or Jan.

Blessings,

Rev Guy Hewlett (Team Rector)

Rev Catherine Mitchell (Team Vicar)

Canon Jan Humphries (Licensed Lay Minister)

The advance slowed as attackers outreached the heavy artillery support. 95 percent of German artillery positions identified before Amiens.

The Leaning Virgin.

Earlier in the war, in the town of Albert, near to the Somme, a church statue of the Virgin Mary was hit. It didn't fall completely and remained hanging. It was reckoned when it finally fell the war would end. In August 1918 the statue toppled.

September 1918

2nd - Battle of the Drocourt-Queant Line - Canadian Forces cap ground near Queant.

12th - Battle of St Mihiel begins, (ends 16th August). First large scale Allied Offensive carried out separately by American Expeditionary Force on the Western Front.

26th - Allied Meuse-Argonne Offensive begins with Battle of Champagne & Argonne, (battle ends Oct 15).

28th - Allied Flanders Advance begins with Battle of the Flanders Peakes,

29th - Battle of the St Quentin Canal begins (ends Oct 10).
Passchendale was retaken by Belgium Forces.

Major battles: Meuse-Argonne, 26th September - 11 November.

This was the American expeditionary Force's largest offensive, featuring over 1.25 million troops. While they had immediate success at St Mihiel earlier, this attack proved more difficult as they faced strong German defences in the dense Argonne forest. The weather didn't help: it rained on 40 of the battle's 47 days. Their outdated tactics brought about heavy casualties, but they prevailed, and continued their assault right up to the end of the war.

In the 6 months they fought in the war 53,402 Americans were killed.(In Vietnam 58,220 were killed during 8 years of fighting)

NB.Further facts will be included next month.

R. Moss

THE WAY I SEE IT:What is ‘health’?

Canon David Winter

This summer we’ve been celebrating the 70th anniversary of the National Health Service. I can recall, years ago, my GP pointing out that it was the National Health Service, not the National Illness Service. This was when our local practice changed its name from ‘Medical Centre’ to ‘Health Centre’. It seems a pedantic point, but in fact it touches on a huge issue. What is ‘health’?

In the Gospels the healing miracles of Jesus are sometimes called ‘cures’ and sometimes ‘making well or whole’. These are attempts by the translators to convey a difference in the nature of what had happened. People who had ‘conditions’ (blind, lame, infirm) were ‘cured’. Those with serious illness were often said to be ‘made whole’. When Jesus was faced with ten people with leprosy, nine were described as ‘cured’ and one – the Samaritan who came back in gratitude, was ‘made whole’ (Luke 17:19). So was the woman with a long-term haemorrhage, who touched the hem of the Lord’s garment: ‘your faith has made you whole (well)’ (Luke 8:45).

This suggests that ‘health’ is more than being free of sickness. Indeed, it seems to imply that health relates to our whole life experience – to be truly healthy, we are ‘well’ mentally, physically and spiritually. I think I would go further: I have ministered to people who were desperately ill but in the deepest sense of the word radiantly ‘healthy’. That may sound odd, but just as ‘peace’ is not simply the absence of war, so ‘health’ is not just the absence of illness. I suspect many of those working in the NHS know the truth of that.

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What an apple might do for you

Here's some good news: an apple a day could help keep diabetes at bay, according to new health guidelines.

Yoghurt, cheese and regular cups of tea or coffee are among other food and drinks that could also help ward off the condition. But keep an eye on the meat and potatoes – they may actually increase your likelihood of diagnosis.

The dietary advice comes from Oxford University and Diabetes UK. It also suggests eating more whole grains and fruit and vegetables.

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The magazine is distributed to 350 households in the Sedgely and Gornal area

Happiness is...

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Recent figures produced by the National Centre for Social Research suggest that even if they scream all night, still parents of young children are happier than non-parents – or those with school-age children. And more good news – having very young children does not seem to increase anxiety levels in their parents. The study was developed by Oxford Economics, a forecasting group.

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All in the month of September

It was:

100 years ago, from 26th Sep to 11th Nov that the WWI Meuse-Argonne Offensive took place in France. It was the last major battle of WWI, and the American Expeditionary Force's largest and bloodiest operation of the war. Allied victory.

90 years ago, on 28th Sep 1928 that the use of cannabis was made illegal in the UK. (Medical use of cannabis was made illegal in 1973.)

80 years ago, on 30th Sep 1938 that British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain returned to England in triumph after signing the Munich Agreement, declaring there would be 'peace in our time'.

40 years ago, on 8th Sep 1978 that the 'Black Friday' of the Iranian Revolution took place. Thousands of protestors gathered in Jaleh Square, Tehran, and ignored calls to disperse. The Imperial Army opened fire and foreign journalists reckoned that up to 4,000 people were killed. This was the pivotal event in the Iranian Revolution, and marked the beginning of the end of the Shah's regime.

30 years ago, on 6th Sep 1988 that 11-year-old British boy Thomas Gregory became the youngest person to swim the English Channel.

20 years ago, on 4th Sep 1998 that Google, the internet search company, was founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin, both students at Stanford University in California. The company was initially based in a friend's garage in Menlo Park.

10 years ago, on 7th Sept 2008 that the 2008 Financial Crisis was underway. The troubled US mortgage-financing giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were placed into government conservatorship, under the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

**The Rectory,
St James the Least
My dear Nephew Darren**



Your enthusiasm for attending training courses has, until now, baffled me. Why should you want to become a better preacher, when congregations only use the sermon for catching up on lost sleep? What more do you need to learn about time management than being able to recognise those fixed points of 12.30pm for the pre-luncheon sherry and 6pm for a stiff gin? And what is the point of learning about how to lead Bible study groups when all you will end up discussing is who failed to provide flowers for the altar last Sunday?

But after this last week, dear boy, I take it all back. The bishop sent me on a week's pre-retirement course. Of course, he was dropping hints, but until I reach my century, I have little intention of relinquishing a vocation to annoying parishioners and frustrating the plans of bishops. What else, after all, is parish ministry about?

The first move is to arrive early, receive your room allocation and then discard it. Tour the whole establishment, find the best room and then unpack and make sure your dog is nicely settled in the centre of the bed, just in time for the arrival of the intended occupant. I naturally apologise effusively for my innocent mistake, begin to remove possessions and dog while hoping that he will excuse all the hairs on his bed. This ensures that he magnanimously offers to take your original room.

At the first session, you need to establish the ground rules – and with a course leader, who in my opinion, should still have been wearing short trousers, it was all too easy. You make it clear that you are extremely deaf and so all the lectures will, sadly, be wasted on you. You also add that you will need some time alone to prepare for a surfeit of funerals which inexplicably all came in the day before you left and that you also will need time out to exercise your dog.

By the end of that first session, you will have accounted for your absence for the rest of the week. In my case, it passed delightfully with gentle strolls in the grounds, visits to the local second-hand bookshops and much silent meditation in one's room. I attended the final session in order to congratulate the leader for his magnificent course, was effusive in my comments on those wretched evaluation forms and on my return wrote a letter of thanks to the bishop for having thought I was worthy of receiving pre-retirement training – while also noting that I was sure it would be of use when I begin to make plans for that happy event in a few decades time.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Universities can mistake ‘loneliness for depression’

Many young people who have just left home for university will be lonely. That is a normal emotion of young adults, and it is certainly not a medical condition.

So says a leading professor of psychiatry at Kings College London, who advises universities not to make the current mental health crisis worse by assuming that all sad students are depressed. He urged universities to stop throwing money at various ‘untested’ mental health initiatives. Instead, Sir Simon Wessely said: ‘Loneliness is a major problem for the student population...but there is quite a lot of evidence to say that the solution may not be to see a counsellor, but maybe to join a choir.’ He advised that the best way to protect against mental health problems was to draw on active social networks. Having friends who they can confide in is ‘probably better’ for students than seeking professional help



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Psalm 8 – and the wonders of Creation

Revd Paul Hardingham

In this harvest season, the created universe can inspire our worship, as it did for David: ‘Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!’ (Psalm 8:1).

What did David see? ‘When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place’ (3). David was moved to worship as he meditated on the night sky and saw the moon and stars pointing to their Maker. His words point to the work of a great artist, whose art reflects the character of the artist Himself.

How vast is the universe in which we live! It speaks of a creation shot through with meaning and purpose, demonstrating the tremendous wisdom and power of God. As creation speaks of the greatness of God, it demands our allegiance and loyalty to Him in all aspects of our lives.

What did David feel? ‘what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?’ (4). In the light of creation’s vastness, we can feel a little insignificant! Why do human beings exist on this tiny planet in such a vast universe? However, David goes on to answer his own question: ‘You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour.’ (5). Human beings have a unique relationship to God, because we are created in His image.

We are the means by which the invisible God is made visible to His creation. We are called to be partners with God in doing His work in the world, to care for the earth rather than exploiting it. It is a precious resource, along with the creatures it contains!

‘The glory of God is the human person fully alive’ (Irenaeus of Lyons)

SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2018

2nd September

- All Saints - 8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
10.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
6.30pm - Evensong - Canon Jan Humphries
- St Andrews - 9.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries
- St Peters - 10.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett

9th September

- All Saints - 8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
10.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries
6.30pm - Evensong - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
- St Andrews - 9.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
- St Peters - 10.30am - Worship for All - Suzanne Bradley

16th September

- All Saints - 8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
10.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
6.30pm - Evensong - Canon Jan Humphries
- St Andrews - 9.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries
- St Peters - 10.30am - Hon Canon Judith Oliver

23rd September

- All Saints - 8am - The Revd Guy Hewlett
10.30am - The Revd James Makepeace
6.30pm - Compline - Canon Jan Humphries
- St Andrews - 9.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett
- St Peters - 10.30am - Worship for All - Suzanne Bradley

30th September

- All Saints - 8am The Revd Guy Hewlett
- St Peters - 10.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett - Joint Service
- All Saints - 6.30pm - Healing Service - the Revd Guy Hewlett and Canon Jan Humphries