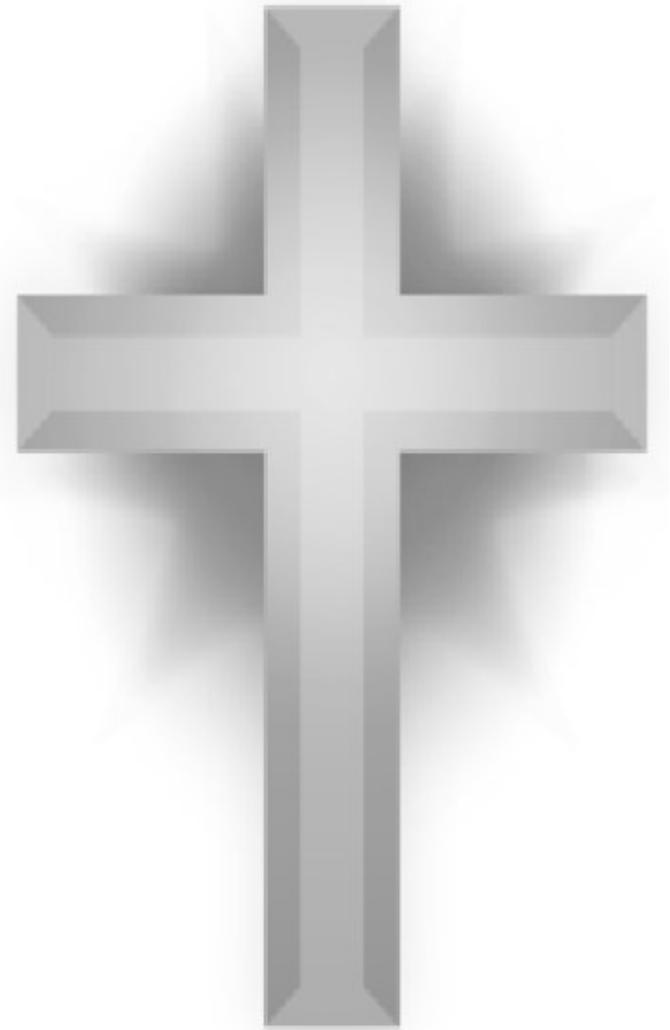
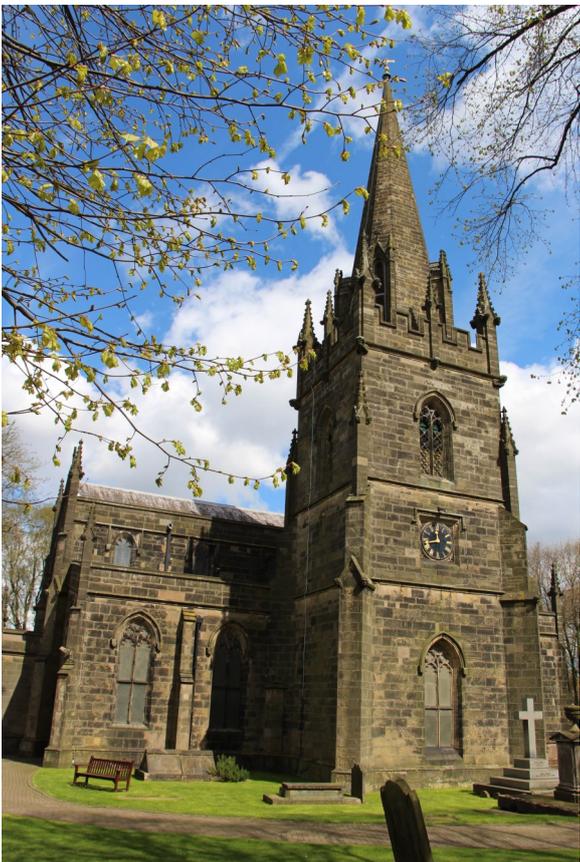


THE BEACON

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

Registered Charity Number 1179471



Kingdom People
love • compassion • justice • freedom

50p

JUNE 2019

WHO's WHO

Team Rector	Revd Guy Hewlett	01902 295164
Team Vicar	Rev 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	Kath Apperley	01902 663253
Vestry Clerk	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	Pam Pugh	07860 256535
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	Alan Turner	01902 670938
DCC secretary	Rosemary Reed	01902 679007
Little Angels baby & toddler group	Canon Jan Humphries	
Singing Angels	Claire Cox	07812 010108

Parish Prayers at 9.15am - All are Welcome

Tuesdays at St Andrew,

Wednesdays at St Peter and

Thursdays at All Saints.

Funerals in May

14th May -	Ronald Aveline -	Gornal Wood
16th May -	Arthur Bayliss -	Gornal Wood
22nd May -	Christine Ashfield -	Gornal Wood
29th May -	Anthony Chambers -	Gornal Wood
30th May -	Lavinia Wild -	Gornal Wood

High Days & Holy Days for June

- 1 Justin Martyr – first ever Christian philosopher
- 2 Erasmus – a good saint for when you're all at sea
- 3 The Martyrs of Uganda
- 4 Petroc – the abbot of Padstow
- 6 Gudwal – the first Christian in Brittany?
- 8 William of York – victim of injustice
- *9 PENTECOST – various articles from which to choose
- 9 Columba of Iona – missionary to Scotland
- 11 Barnabas – Paul's first missionary companion
- 13 Antony of Padua – friend of St Francis of Assisi
- 14 Richard Baxter – Puritan Divine
- 15 Evelyn Underhill – mystical writer of the 20th century
- 16 TRINITY SUNDAY
- 16 Richard of Chichester – wanting God more clearly, dearly and nearly
- 16 Father's Day – time to celebrate male role models
- 21 Summer Solstice – longest day of the year
- 22 St Alban – helping a stranger in need
- 22 St Alban – British martyr under the Romans
- 22 St Alban – Britain's first Christian martyr
- 24 St John the Baptist – preparing the way for the Messiah
- 29 Feast of SS Peter & Paul – the two most famous apostles

THE BEACON

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

Karen Evans: 01902 678056

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 June

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.
Do not send files in pdf format

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

Vestry hour will take place on the first and third Sunday of the month for all enquires on weddings and baptisms from 12 noon to 1pm

Letter from Archdeacon of Dudley

Nikki Groarke

It is a steadily growing, worldwide organisation enabling people to gather weekly, drawn by a sense of community and the promise of well-being. It is facilitated primarily by enthusiastic volunteers who work for more than a million hours each year. It is open to everyone, inclusive and involves all ages. Most people who join in find themselves encouraging their friends and families to come along too, as they love it so much - they quickly become 'evangelists' for this remarkable movement.

Sounds familiar? Is it church I am describing? I wish it were so, especially the last sentence! In fact the phenomenon in question has been described as "the new church", and in a recent newspaper article a volunteer was quoted saying, "The idea of the community has broken down. People don't go to church any more. But here, you come together with a load of people – and you feel embedded in the local area."

The obvious ingredient missing in this description is faith. This volunteer-led new community of which I and millions of others are a part on a Saturday morning is Parkrun, a timed, 5k run taking place in parks all over the world. It's great for building a sense of belonging in a healthy way, but of course it isn't church. Yet perhaps we as church have things to learn from how it's growing; especially about the affirmation of volunteers. The first thing that happens in every pre-run briefing is a big shout-out and cheer for that week's volunteers. As we run the course, most runners, (if they are not too breathless!), call out "thank you marshal!" to each and every one, and they always get listed and thanked in the Facebook run report.

On one Saturday in May members of Top Church in Dudley took on all the volunteer roles at the Dudley Parkrun to serve and become more embedded in their local community and demonstrate that many people do still go to church, (and some run too!).

Much ministry in our churches is undertaken by committed volunteers, faithful lay people similarly putting in millions of hours week by week.

Sadly, many of you do this unnoticed, and all too often, un-thanked. God, of course, sees what it is done and why, but fostering a culture of gratitude whereby we take a moment to thank anyone who we know has served the church can strengthen relationships and encourage fellow church members no end. Why not make the month of June a **‘volunteer thank-you month’**, where we all try to consciously show our appreciation to those we see carrying out tasks to enable our churches to function? It would certainly boost morale!

I made a point of thanking our church wardens during the May visitations – they put in huge amounts of work. But can I take this opportunity to thank anyone reading this who volunteers in church or community in any way – you are appreciated very much.

How long could you make £60 last?

That is the latest challenge from Children’s Society, as they seek to highlight the plight of many poor people.

Children’s Society says: “Imagine the worst week. Your car needs repairs, your boiler has broken, you need to get the groceries in, but you have only £60 left until you get paid next week. Can you make it last?”

If you would like to test yourself, to see how you would manage, take the quiz at <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/news-and-blogs/our-blog/difficult-decisions-in-a-crisis/>

Behind the quiz, however, the Childrens’ Society is deadly serious. “Low wages, poor housing and public service cutbacks have left many families struggling. They have to make impossible choices every single day. One bit of bad luck quickly leads to families not being able to afford the basics. “To make matters far worse, the council-run emergency funds that used to be there to support vulnerable families are at risk, and have disappeared altogether in some areas, leaving people with nowhere to turn.”

If you can help, go to <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>

‘Prayer, Praise, Preaching and Persistence!’

From Guy Hewlett

The Spring is giving way to the Summer and people who are gardeners have been busy for a while tending their gardens; everything from the little patch of green to large! Life in the gardens is blossoming!

Gardening needs all sorts of skills; planning ahead, planting, pruning, severe cutting back, grass cutting, lawn tending, there is a lot to it – I am not a ‘gardener’ but I love being in a garden and ‘doing stuff!’.

I do know that gardens need attention otherwise they acquire the overgrown or ‘natural look’, whether wanted or not! Natural of course has its place but brambles can hurt us!

In our spiritual lives, which in reality is the whole of our lives, we too need to be attentive.

To neglect this part of our lives can lead to us feeling overloaded and burdened and unclear about purpose and direction; things can become out perspective.

There are many ways to tend to ourselves and **Prayer, Praise, Preaching and Persistence** can all help!

Prayer

In Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus tells us to -

Pray then in this way:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.**

Prayer of course is really a conversation (hopefully 2 way) with God. No special words or places are needed!

We can use the Lord's prayer as a structure to guide our prayers and praying regularly helps keep us clear headed and focused.

Praise

'...hallowed be your name ...' is about praising God. This can really lift our spirits, thanking God for who He is, telling Him that we love Him and thanking Him for all His good gifts to us.

In 1 Corinthians 14:15 St Paul writes, ¹⁵ 'What should I do then? I will pray with the spirit, but I will pray with the mind also; I will sing praise with the spirit, but I will sing praise with the mind also.' Intentionally praising, that is deciding to praise God in our minds and intellects as well as our hearts and spirits, can transform us.

Preaching

Preaching, teaching and reading the scriptures help us keep things in perspective and helps us to separate the wheat out from the chaff; those things that really matter and those things that are less important.

In Matthew chapter 16 verse 15 Jesus said to the disciples, and to us today, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation'.

Quietly telling people in deeds of love and words that Jesus loves them can be truly transformative for those we are with but also at the same time for ourselves. Try it! We can all do this in some way!

Persistence

In a world of uncertainty persistence and faithfulness to God can bring a wonderful stability.

Persistence in attending to our spiritual lives through prayer, praise of God and hearing and reading the scriptures can bring about a new or renewed certainty and order to our lives.

In Luke 11 Jesus says of persistence in prayer ⁹ 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.'

Keep tending your spiritual lives, and do not give up! Blooming gardens and blooming people; what a sight for sore eyes!!

What's so important about the Trinity?

'We worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Essence.' (Athanasian Creed).

On Trinity Sunday we will celebrate God as one God in three Persons. This understanding is based on how we see God at work in the world. We trust in a God who is: *'God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist; God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again and God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world'* (CofE Baptism Service).

The Trinity provides a model for **Christian community**. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit relate together in a love relationship of mutual accountability with one another. They complement and build on the work of each other. At His baptism, Jesus the Son is obedient to His Father, who declares His approval as the Spirit anoints Jesus for ministry. *'The Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'* (Luke 3:22). To what extent does the life of our church reflect this?

We also find our **mission** in the Trinity. Jesus said, *'As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'* (John 20:21). As the Father sent His Son into the world, so Jesus sends us out to do the Father's work, equipped by the Spirit of God. How are we called to share in God's mission ourselves? If we live with a renewed awareness of the Trinity, our spiritual lives will deepen; our vision of God's mission will expand and take on a new vitality.

Trouble

The minister's son had just received a bad report from school. Seeking to distract his father, he asked: "Dad, what do you think is the trouble with me? Heredity, environment or just plain original sin?"

MOTHERS' UNION

'Thank you' to all who donated items for our Deanery Lenten Collection. Karen came to our Coffee Morning to receive the 'Welcome Packs' and 'Cleaning Starter Packs' and gave us an update on the work at CHADD. It was good to meet up with members from across the Deanery, all of whom are passionate about supporting the Women's Refuge. After our magazine will have 'gone to print' we will have been privileged to welcome our new Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, to the Diocese, and one of the projects she will be visiting is the Women's Refuge. (More news next month).

The morning of our meeting in May I received a text from our speaker saying she was on her way to City Hospital to have an X Ray on her foot, following a fall! Revd. Judith Oliver hoped to be with us, depending on how long she would be at the hospital! Thankfully, her toe strapped up, Judith came and, after celebrating Communion with us, shared her thoughts and experiences of life as a retired priest. Suddenly not being part of a 'Church Family' she had known and ministered to for many years was very strange - that feeling of belonging suddenly gone.

Worshipping as a member of the congregation with people knowing you are 'a retired priest'. Being able to spend more time with her grandchildren. We discussed how some people find retirement very difficult and for others it is the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. We had a lovely afternoon of worship and gained some insight into what life is like for a 'retired priest'.

Our Deanery Festival was held at Church of the Ascension, Wall Heath, on Tuesday 14th May. The service was based around the Mothers' Union theme for this year, 'Listen, Observe and Act in Step with God'. As the sun streamed in through the windows and our banners were processed through the church we rose as one to begin our service. We were delighted to welcome our new Diocesan President, Judith Grubb who gave the address. Judith talked about people who inspire us, how members are inspirational in the projects they undertake and the support they give to

families. Congratulations to Barbara Baker was presented with a Long Service Award for 20 years membership.

Congratulations to Judith and Geoff Dunning who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary last month.

Dates:

4th June 2.30pm 4 Better 4 Worse, Jean Swift

Liz Williams

Cream Tea



Tuesday 2nd July, 2.30pm

at

All Saints' Church Hall

£6 - Proceeds to

Mothers' Union Projects

& All Saints' and St Andrew's Churches

(Tickets from Liz Williams)

Resilience and faith in God

I have a great love for the Bible, especially the stories of men and women who lived their lives by faith. Not only did they display great trust in God, but also great resilience, often keeping going in the face of great adversity.

Nehemiah is such a person. His great achievement was to take a bunch of dispirited and down-hearted individuals and, in spite of much opposition and danger, motivate them to work together in a hostile environment to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. This enormous task they achieved against the odds, and in a surprisingly short time – it took them only 52 days (Nehemiah 6:15)!

At the heart of Nehemiah's resilience was his faith in God. Even secular writers recognise the part that faith plays in building resilience. Nehemiah believed that the God of heaven was in control and His purposes were being worked out (Nehemiah 1:5). Since God had called him to the task, he would make sure that he could complete it. This kind of positive thinking is helpful when facing challenging circumstances. Nehemiah maintained a confident, hope-filled attitude even when things were against him.

Not only did this buoyant attitude keep Nehemiah going, it also motivated the people to persevere when at times they may have despaired and given up. Nehemiah persevered not because of his dogged determination, but because he was in touch with a source of strength outside himself. He had a deep, inner life with God that was expressed in prayer. Instinctively, he turned to God at every moment of fear, anxiety and need.

Extracted from 'Resilience in Life and Faith – finding your strength in God' by Tony Horsfall & Debbie Hawker

175th Anniversary celebration of St Peter's Church



2019 is a significant year in many ways for the church of St Peter, with contrasting emotions. This year we celebrate the 175th anniversary of the church building in Upper Gornal, these celebrations also come with a tinge of sadness as we look towards the future after the church building closes.

To celebrate the 175th anniversary of the church building there will be a celebration parish service at St Peter's at 10:30 on 30th June; followed by a bring and share lunch. Please make every effort to come to the service and the lunch, as we join together as the church family to celebrate.

Please look for more details of the service and plans for the lunch in the pew sheets in the coming weeks.

Courier Scam

West Midlands Police has learned of a recent series of scams in the area. The fraudsters are competent and convincing at what they do.

The scam is when fraudsters call and trick you into handing over your cards and PIN numbers to a courier on your doorstep.

A fraudster will cold call you on your landline claiming to be the police or bank. They say their systems have spotted fraud on your card or that it needs to be replaced.

They suggest you hang up and ring 999 or the bank, but they don't disconnect so when you do this you are still on the line to the fraudster.

They ask you to read your PIN number/s and they may ask for details of other accounts you hold.

Finally they send a courier to collect your card/s. They will have collected all your details and can use your card/s to withdraw cash and may commit identity fraud.

Protect yourself

Your bank will **never** send a courier to your home

Your bank and the police will **never** collect your bank card

They will **never** ask for your PIN

If you receive one of these calls end it immediately

Report any attempt to **Action Fraud 0300123 2040** or
www.actionfraud.police.uk

Start!

Discovering Christianity
in six small-group sessions

Are you interested in learning more about the Christian faith in a small, safe and encouraging group, that assumes no previous knowledge of anything Christian?

Then look no further than the Start Course!!!

The Start Course is designed to help people:

Think through where they are going in their lives

Learn to ask questions about the Christian faith

Discover the good news of Jesus

Consider how they want to respond to it, and to him!

The course takes 6 weeks, and will be on Mondays at St Andrews church hall meeting at 15:00 on the following dates June 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and July 1st, 8th

If you would like further information and to sign up for the course please speak to **Catherine (Team Vicar)**

01902 677897

The Beatitudes: 'Blessed are the meek'

Jesus calls those who live for His kingdom to demonstrate His character: *'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.'* (5:5). Meekness can come over as being *'weak or feeble'*, hence *'Gentle Jesus, meek and mild.'* However, the Greek word means being *tamed: 'Blessed are those who are tamed, under control.'* The picture is that of a horse brought under control: strength under submission. Meekness begins with an honest view of ourselves, where we don't have to worry about what others think of us, but trust in what God is able to do in us.

Moses is described as *'very meek, more than all men that were on the face of the earth'* (Numbers 12:3, RSV). Moses was certainly not a weak leader, but he submitted to God's plans for his life. Meekness accepts what comes, even if it hurts, knowing that it's for our good.

A meek person will tame themselves to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who shows us how to respond in any situation practically and prayerfully. It means being careful about how we respond to those who provoke us by not being angry or striking out. When we encounter difficult situations or people who wind us up, how are we prepared to pray before speaking? We should not be out of control, but under God's control!

Let's not forget the promise of this beatitude, that the meek person will *'inherit the earth.'* Those who are prepared to let go their rights in this world, will be made infinitely rich in the future.

'The meek man knows at the same time that he is in the sight of God of more importance than angels. In himself, nothing; in God, everything. That is his motto.' (AW Tozer).

Live 60s/70s Tribute Night

featuring

The McKays

Saturday Oct 12th 2019 in the Church Hall

8.00pm to 10.30pm
(Doors open 7.30pm)

Come and dance the night away or just
listen and take in a bit of nostalgia.

This promises to be a great night
and not to be missed!

Tickets £8.00, available from

Roger Berry Tel: 01902 881374

Please bring your own drinks/glasses & nibbles

(Any raffle prizes would be gratefully received)

Single parents are valued members of our church family

There are an estimated two million single parents in the UK, raising their children in a variety of situations: alone, co-parenting with an estranged partner, or in the middle of a legal battle. Our church family can best enjoy their company by becoming their extended family, and offering them companionship, care and skill support.

One single mother has told of how, when her husband left shortly after the birth of their baby, her church members rallied around with meals, money, and baby-sitting offers. It was a great encouragement as she began life as a young mother on her own.

Another young mother was astonished – and grateful – when several married women in her church ‘loaned’ her their husbands, to do jobs that ranged from an afternoon of heavy gardening to various carpentry and plumbing jobs around the house as she needed them, on an on-going basis. They also invited her for regular meals, making her feel wanted and valued. “I dread to think where I would be without them,” she says. A single father told how the women in his church had encouraged him to maintain the family traditions he and his wife had begun with regard to his children’s birthdays and Christmas and Easter breaks. They had baked birthday cakes and even taught his children how to bake, and how to wrap presents for *him*.

Another single father told how a couple in his church had invited him and his children down to their holiday cottage in Wales for a summer break.

So what can we, as a church family, offer to any single parents in our church? For starters, how about inviting them for a meal at their own house, where you bring the food, and they don’t have to worry about babysitters! Does anyone feel that they would like to start a ‘skills group’ where various people in the church could pledge various skills for a number of afternoons a year, which could be given out, as needed?

Afternoon Tea and Grand Raffle

Saturday June 8th

1.30pm - 4pm

St Andrew Church Hall

All Are Welcome

Don't let the sun kill your pets this summer

Summer is upon us. The sun needs to be taken seriously. Here are some useful tips:

NEVER leave your pet alone in the car, even with the windows down. Sunlight sets car temperatures soaring in a matter of minutes. Your pet will collapse from heatstroke.

On hot days, make sure your pets have regular access to fresh drinking water. If you are out and about with your dog, make sure they can still drink regularly.

Watch out for sunburn! Dogs and cats with light-coloured noses and fur are vulnerable, so keep them out of the sun from 10am to 4pm. Keep an eye on the tips of their ears and nose.

Keep your pet well groomed – especially long-haired ones. A tangle-free coat will keep the animal much cooler than a tangled, matted one. Walk your dog in the cool of the early morning or late evening. **NEVER** force your dog to exercise in humid hot weather.

As for rabbits: keep the hutches of all small animals out of direct sunlight. Make sure their hutches are clean and dry and disinfect at least once a week. Provide clean fresh cool water. Watch out for flystrike or myiasis, a particularly nasty condition. It occurs when flies lay their eggs near or even *on* rabbits. If you find any maggots on or near your rabbits, get a vet's help. Mist your rabbit or small animal to help them stay cool. Brush out excess fur.

Re-Joining the Choir: Why people are the helpers, not priests, of creation

Urbanisation has taken us away from the rest of creation, often reducing it in our eyes to a resource that we draw on when we feel like it, or need it.

But Jesus said the stones would start praising Him if people didn't (19:40), and in the Psalms and Job, all of creation is praising God. There is no hint here that people are needed to enable creation's praise to happen.

The singing is metaphorical, but it draws attention to fact that all creatures praise God by being themselves. They don't only praise with their 'voices', but with everything else they do as well: eating, running, hopping, grooming, reproducing, and so on (which is a reminder to us that our whole lives can be an act of praise to God).

Our isolation from creation's praise can add to our sense that the whole world revolves around us and our needs. In reality, creation is God-centred and 'His name alone is exalted' (Psalm 148:13). The value of creation for God is not necessarily linked to its value for us – it is of value to God because He made it, He cares for it, and it praises Him.

Genesis 1:28 says that we must "rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground". To rule wisely we need to get hold of the fact that, although we have a special responsibility, we are creatures alongside all the other creatures. One way to ground ourselves in this idea is to re-join the choir and worship God together with every other living and non-living thing on earth.

Rather than being needed to help creation praise God, we can actually rely on it to help *us* in our worship. Sharing God's delight in creation, we can learn to delight in God. In return, the best thing we can do is to let living things recover their full fruitfulness as much as possible so they can praise God fully. We are called to a life of humble service, taking care of each other and everything else on this planet. In this way, we can choose to see other creatures as they are, pointing our attention away from themselves towards God – until we are caught up in their praise of Him

The Tank Man of Tiananmen Square

The Tank Man of Tiananmen Square in Beijing made world headlines – and became an iconic image of the twentieth century – 30 years ago, on 5th June 1989, when he temporarily halted a column of tanks by standing in front of them on the morning after a massacre in the square.

Widespread protests in China against the Communist-led Government and for basic human rights had come to a head when martial law was declared and the Army opened fire on up to a million people, resulting in more than 10,000 deaths.

Tiananmen means Gate of Heavenly Peace. The gate is on the north of the square, separating it from the Forbidden City.

The Tank Man climbed on to the lead tank and spoke to the soldiers inside. He then returned to block the tanks but was pulled aside. No-one knows what happened to him, but the authorities stated that he was not killed.

Discussion of the massacre – known as the ‘4th June Incident’ in China – is considered a watershed event which set limits on political expression in China well into the 21st century. The Government still forbids discussion of it, and last year a church was shut down for trying to hold a service of remembrance.

Mitre

A High Church bishop once found his mitre needed reversing during the service, having been replaced on his head back to front. A server realised his predicament and started to turn it round for the bishop. “Steady on there, lad,” said the bishop. “It doesn’t screw on, you know.”

Looking back on D-Day 1944

D-Day took place 75 years ago, on 6th June 1944, when over 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, France. The Battle of Normandy ended on 25th August with victory for the Allies.

It began the liberation of France – and eventually Europe – from Nazi control, and laid the foundations of victory on the Western Front. Planning for the operation involved a great deal of deception as to timing and the precise location of the landings.

The weather on D-Day was not ideal, and the operation had to be delayed 24 hours. None of the immediate goals were achieved, but a foothold was gained which the Allies expanded over the coming months. The Germans had been misled by inaccurate storm forecasts and were unprepared – with many leaders, including General Rommel, not in position.

King George VI had earlier rallied England to prayer, and on the eve of battle crowded services were held on landing craft, ships and airfields, with chaplains urging troops to put their trust in God. In America, as news of the invasion was broadcast, stores closed and prayer meetings were organised all over the country.

Museums, memorials, and war cemeteries in Normandy still welcome many visitors each year.

Cheers

The restaurant where I took my two sons for a meal was crowded with fans watching a sporting event on TV. The harried waitress took our order, but more than half an hour passed with no sign of her return. I was trying to keep my children from becoming restless when suddenly shouts of victory came from the bar. “Hey,” commented my 11-year-old, “it sounds as if someone just got his food.”

Nineteen Eighty-Four

Tim Lenton looks back on the classic dystopian novel.

George Orwell's classic dystopian novel, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, was published 70 years ago, on 8th June 1949. It was set in the year 1984, where most of the world is a victim of government surveillance and propaganda, with individualism and independent thinking ruthlessly suppressed.

Many of the novel's invented phrases have passed into common usage in one form or another – notably the party leader Big Brother, Room 101 and doublethink. The adjective Orwellian has come to mean false propaganda, misleading terminology and manipulation of history – much like today's fake news aimed to influence voting and opinions.

The book – written mainly on the island of Jura while Orwell was ill with tuberculosis – has consistently figured high up in best-novel lists. Orwell himself – real name Eric Blair – was something of a mystery.

The book has been described as “grim despair, hardly a message to cheer the true believer... sadistic and nihilistic”, but Orwell had a strong affection for the Anglican Church into which he was born.

He constantly made friends with local clergy of the “poor old inoffensive Church of England”, though he equated the extremes of Roman Catholicism with those of Communism, and is often described as an atheist; although cynic is probably nearer the mark

Heaven and hell

Heaven is an English policeman, a French cook, a German engineer, an Italian lover and everything organised by the Swiss. Hell is an English cook, a French engineer, a German policeman, a Swiss lover and everything organized by the Italians. (John Elliot)

How do you spot fake news?

Here are some tips which may prove useful.

What is the source? Have a good look at the website where you found it, including the About Us section. Is it really a news site? Are other stories from this site believable? Can you find this story and the other stories on the site anywhere else?

What is the domain name? If it is similar to a respected website, that is a bad sign. Also beware of any domain names that are strange, or very long.

Who wrote the story? Does the website provide any names? Do a web search on these people. Are they really journalists?

How current is the story? Sometimes very old, out of date stories get recycled.

Do your own research. If the story claims that something specific happened somewhere, try and find that same story on other websites. If the story is just on that one website, be careful! If in doubt, try approaching an organisation you trust that deals in that same area.

Beware social media Anyone could have written it.

Finally, if you are left in any doubt, then *doubt!*

With school-days in mind...

A little girl after her geography exam: “Please God make Copenhagen the capital of Japan – at least for this month.”

Loneliness week – 17th to 21st June

Britain is in the midst of a loneliness epidemic. A survey by the Jo Cox Commission in 2017 revealed that nine million of us in the UK are affected by it.

So, no wonder that last year the Government even appointed the world's first loneliness minister, Tracey Crouch. And no wonder that the Marmalade Trust aims to raise awareness of isolation in the UK.

Loneliness hurts you physically as well as mentally. It has even been said that it can be as bad for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. It can raise blood pressure, and cause diabetes and obesity.

Technology is a big factor: we send emails rather than talk, we have virtual team workspaces rather than speaking in person. We use LinkedIn and Facebook to keep in touch. One health expert said, "We're getting out of the habit of actual conversations."

People who work from home and who also live alone can go days without speaking to anyone. No wonder that the millennial generation, for whom technology accounts for an increasing percentage of their interaction, are reporting high levels of anxiety.

Experts advise that you simply try and make as many social connections as you can, however brief. Make tea for someone at work, or chat to your neighbour.

Church council

The minister was praising his church council. "Unlike others I have known, where half the council does all the work and the other half are hopeless, in this church it is completely the reverse!"

Good

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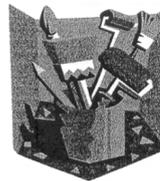
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Peace to the End

The peace of God to dwell with you,

The peace of Christ to dwell with you,

The peace of Spirit dwell with you,

And peace dwell with your children too,

From the day we have here to-day

To the last day of your life's way,

Till come the day that ends your way.

From Poems of the Western Highlanders

Courage to die for You

There is brutal persecution of Christians today in many parts of the world. To them the prayer of a man who died nearly 18 centuries ago would be very relevant.... Cyprian of Carthage was martyred during the terrible persecutions of the Roman Empire in 258.

We believe and trust, Lord, that at the time of terrible persecution, you will hear and answer our prayers with the utmost urgency. We pray with all our hearts that you will give us courage to remain true to the Gospel, and proclaim your Name right up till the moment of death. Then may we emerge from the snares of this world with our souls unscathed, and rise from the darkness of the world into your glorious light.

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Never, ever feel aggrieved that your summer strawberry tea has to be held in the church hall rather than on a lawn, since there is hardly a single blade of grass to be found in your entire parish. You have no idea of the potential calamities you are avoiding.

Here, during the previous week, the organisers will be desperately asking the opinion of local farmers about the weather. In doing so, they forget that for the farming community, it is *always* the wrong sort of weather anyway. I once received a heartfelt plea from the staff at Heathrow Airport for our ladies to stop calling them at hourly intervals to find out if hurricanes may be imminent.

Naturally, the day will start out warm and sunny and so all the tables will be arranged on the vicarage lawn. By 10am, tablecloths will have been laid. By 10.10am, a brisk breeze will have sprung up and someone will be delegated to retrieve them all from deep within the nettle patch. By 11am, clouds will gather, and a decision will be made to transfer everything into the church hall. Once that is completed, just when it is almost too late to change, the sun will re-emerge and there will be a frantic dash to put everything back on the lawn. This ensures that by 2pm when teas start, the ladies will already be in a state of collapse.

Last year, the Dowager Duchess of Trilby graced us with her presence. As she sat with her entourage, elegantly sipping tea under a giant parasol over the table, the thing – equally elegantly – closed around her, leaving her looking like one of those unfortunate insects trapped by a carnivorous plant. To emerge from its depths looking entirely unflustered was beyond even her social skills.

Fortunately, attention was diverted from her predicament by the wife of one of our farmers. This substantial lady had been sitting in a chair with slightly too thin legs for the damp lawn. The rear two slowly sank into the grass, eventually catapulting the dear lady backwards into the lap of the local mayor. Disentangling red flannelette from mayoral chains took some time, and delicacy.

At least when I have had enough, the lawn can be cleared in minutes by drawing the raffle. The moment the last plastic shower cap and set of Christmas doilies has been awarded, there will be a dash to get home, giving my dog the opportunity to retrieve remnants of cream cakes from the flower beds.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Laodicean fervour?

The Laodicean church is described in the Bible in the book of The Revelation as being lukewarm. If the Laodiceans were to have a hymnal, suitable for their conviction, here's a list of some of the hymns it may contain:

O Come Let Us Ignore Him.

Oh, for a Couple of Tongues to Sing

Part of the Way with Jesus

Pillow of Ages, Fluffed for Me

Precious Lord, Take My Finger

Sit Up, Sit up for Jesus



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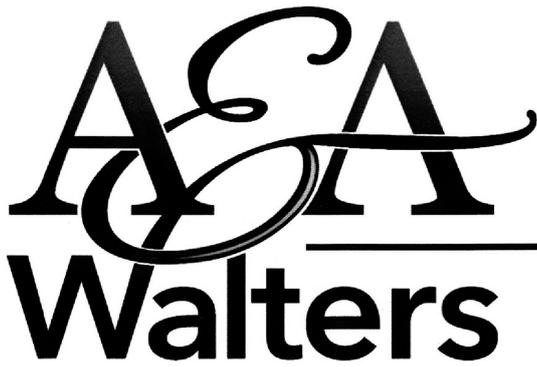
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SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

June 2019

Sunday 2nd June

All Saints - 8am - Revd Guy Hewlett
10.30am - Revd Guy Hewlett
6.30pm - Book of Common Prayer - Evensong - Revd Guy Hewlett
St Andrew - 9.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries
St Peter - 10.30am - Revd Catherine Mitchell
Wednesday 5th June - St Peter - Revd Guy Hewlett

Sunday 9th June

All Saints - 8am - Revd Guy Hewlett
10.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries
6.30pm - Book of Common Prayer - Evensong - Canon Jan Humphries
St Andrew - 9.30am - Revd Guy Hewlett
St Peter - 10.30am - Revd Catherine Mitchell
Wednesday 12th June - St Peter - Revd Catherine Mitchell

Sunday 16th June

All Saints - 8am - Revd Catherine Mitchell
10.30am - Revd Catherine Mitchell
6.30pm - Book of Common Prayer - Evensong - Canon Jan Humphries
St Andrew - 9.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries
St Peter - 10.30am - Canon Judith Oliver
Wednesday 19th June - St Peter - Revd Catherine Mitchell

Sunday 23rd June

All Saints - 8am - Revd Catherine Mitchell
10.30am - Canon Judith Oliver
6.30pm - Book of Common Prayer - Holy Communion - Revd Catherine Mitchell
St Andrew - 9.30am - Revd Catherine Mitchell
St Peter - 10.30am - Worship for All - Suzanne Bradley
Wednesday 26th June - St Peter - Revd Guy Hewlett

Sunday 30th June

All Saints - 8am - Revd Catherine Mitchell
6.30pm - Healing Service - Revd Guy Hewlett
St Peter - 10.30am - Worshipping Together Service - Revd Guy Hewlett

Every Sunday at St Andrew - Singing Angels from 4pm for children age 4+ and 5pm Archangels for children age 9+.