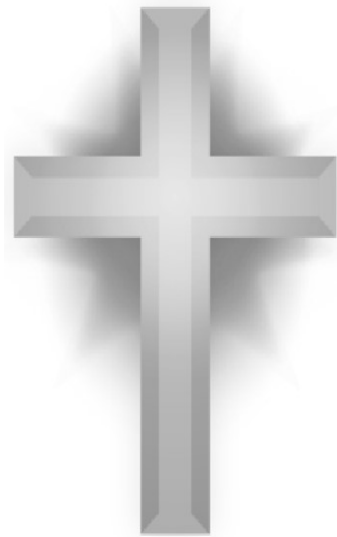
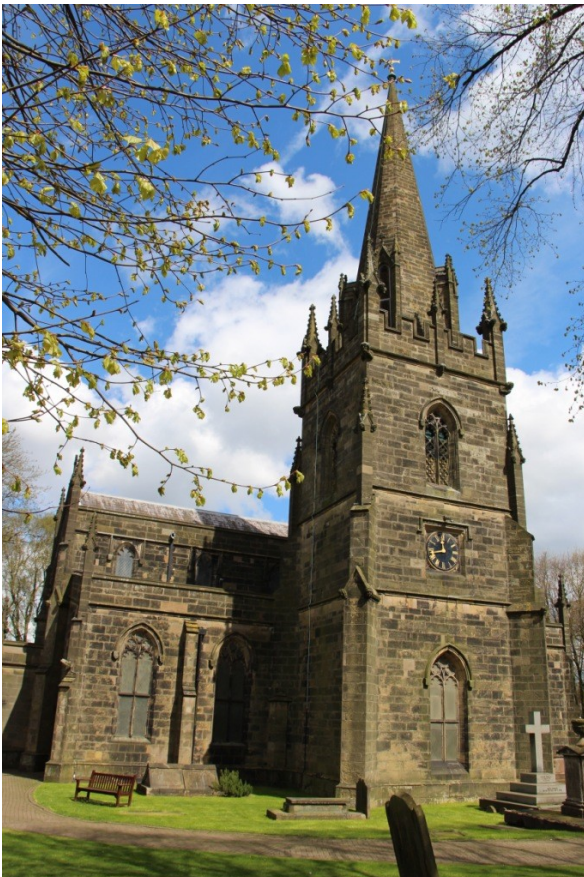


THE BEACON

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

Registered Charity Number 1179471



Kingdom People
love • compassion • justice • freedom

50p

December 2020/January 2021

PARISH WIDE 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 |
| Ordinand and ALM | Claire Cox | 07812 010108 |
| Parish Safeguarding Officer | Barbara Baker | 01902 882847 |
| Pastoral Care | Tracey Bate | 01902 880727 |
| | Jackie Hewlett | 01902 295164 |
| | Sarah Parker | 01902 885570 |
| Worship Leader | Suzanne Bradley | 01902 880055 |
| Youth Leader and Youth Group | Laura Robinson | 01902 678572 |
| Singing Angels | | 07812 010108 |
| | Claire Cox | |
| PCC Secretary | Kath Apperley | 01902 663253 |
| PCC Treasurer | Sheila Moss | 01902 893570 |
| Parish Office | Gail Griffiths | 01902 540289 |
| Web Editor | Martin Jones | 01902 884461 |

St Peters

Who's Who

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Parish Warden | David Moss | 01902 893570 |
| Parish Warden | Edward Grist | 01902 682786 |
| Treasurer | Sheila Moss | 01902 893570 |
| Children's Advocate | Suzanne Bradley | 01902 880055 |
| DCC Secretary | John Powell | |
| Uniformed Organisations | Please Contact David Moss | 01902 893570 |

St Andrew's

Who's Who

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Warden | Canon Jan Humphries | 01902 661275 |
| Children's Advocate | Carol Haynes | |
| Treasurer | Alan Turner | 01902 670938 |
| DCC Secretary | Rosemary Reed | 01902 679007 |
| Little Angels Baby & Toddler Group | Canon Jan Humphries | 01902 661275 |
| Singing Angels | Claire Cox | 07812 010108 |

All Saints Who's Who

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Vestry Clerk | Chris Williams | 01902 672880 |
| Parish Wardens | Keith Tomlinson | 01902 673366 |
| | John Anderson | 01902 677666 |
| Treasurer | John Anderson | 01902 677666 |
| DCC Secretary | John Anderson | 01902 677666 |
| Caretaker | Pam Pugh | 07860 256535 |
| Junior Church | Barbara Price | 01902 676591 |
| Bell Ringer | Keith Williams | 01902 672585 |
| Organist | Martin Platts | 07941 173252 |
| Youth Leader | Laura Robinson | 01902 678572 |
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| Ladies' Society | Geraldine Baker | 01902 674608 |
| Men's Society | Roger Berry | 01902 881374 |
| Mothers' Union | Liz Williams | 01902 672880 |
| Rainbows | Liz Naylor | 07827 629648 |
| Web Editor | Martin Jones | 01902 884461 |
| Server/Verger | Len Millard | 01902 676339 |
| | Steve Castle | 07971 899072 |
| Noah's Ark | | |
| Parent & | | |
| Toddler Group | Linda Edwards | 01902 672556 |

Funerals In November

16th—Gornal Wood—Janet Mary Jones

23rd—Gornal Wood—Nicholas Paul Thomas Taylor

23rd—Gornal Wood—Thomas James Pedley

24th—Gornal Wood—Norman John Hartshorne

High Days & Holy Days for December

- 1 Eloi – a patron saint for the euro?
- 3 Francis Xavier – the seasick missionary
- 3 Birinus – an apostle to the English
- 4 Osmund – the multi-talented saint
- 6 St Nicholas – patron saint of children
- 6 St Nicholas – another look at this much-loved saint
- 6 How Father Christmas got where he is today
- 11 Daniel the Stylite
- 17 Lazarus of Bethany – back from the tomb
- 17 *NEW Eglantyne Jebb – founder of ‘Save the Children’
- 21 Winter Solstice
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas
- 26 St Stephen
- 26 On the Feast of St Stephen
- 26 Look out for Wenceslas
- 26 In praise of Good King Wenceslas
- 28 Holy Innocents

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 February magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

Friday 22nd January

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

Do not send files in pdf format

WEBSITE: **www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk**

To Magazine Deliverers

Could you please get email addresses for all the people that you deliver to and please and let either Gail Griffiths or Karen Evans know .

St Peter's District Church magazine

St Peter's also publishes a magazine which is more particular to Upper Gornal. If you would like to receive that magazine (which is not available electronically), in the first instance please contact a St Peter's Church warden details on page 2 of this magazine.

Services at the moment can happen in church but no Vestry services as we continue to be limited with regard to numbers and purpose. We are having to re-arrange those weddings and baptisms disrupted by the current situation so, regretfully, cannot consider any enquiries for baptisms until further notice,. If you wish to enquire about a wedding for 2021 or 2022, please contact

Chris Williams chriswilliams550@btinternet.com. Or one of the Ministry Team. Thank you

The Bible is a Love Letter

Guy Hewlett

The Bible is a love letter. There is so much in this book of books, this book of love. As you would take your medication each day, please read the Bible and share it in the best way you can.

To receive a love letter is a very special thing. A love letter from your beloved is something to really treasure – a letter or a card or a note are all things which are beautiful to read and to re-read. They can reaffirm that we are loved and can put a smile on our faces and warm our hearts.

Now please don't be embarrassed, but this is a love letter to you personally; for each of you, a love letter. This is for you from God!

My Dear Beloved,

I have always loved you beyond your understanding. I knew you as you were knitted together in your mother's womb. As you took your first steps. As you breath even now, in this very moment! And I will always love you.

I cannot tell you how much my love extends other than I would give everything for you.

I love the way you walk and talk and think and speak. I love everything that there is about you. I love your face and your hair; I love your eyes; I love your voice and your singing, even when you think that you cannot sing; I love your smile and I love your heart.

I know that it is hard to believe this but there is nothing that would ever stop me loving you. Nothing that you could do or say that would stop or change my love.

I have seen you grow to maturity and your beauty has flourished day by day.

I worry when you are anxious or fearful or just not sure. I would take all of your fear and worry and wipe it away if only you would let me. I have truly tried to do this and will not stop trying! Not ever!

One day I know you will understand my love for you, and I pray day by day that you will be able to live in the knowledge and presence of my love and that your heart will be filled with peace and joy; that you will be free to laugh and live well in the midst of difficulty and challenge, as well as the times of plenty.

I pray that you will be able to return my love in words and actions and in the quiet times when we simply sit together with no words; those times when words are truly not necessary.

I know because I know that one day we will be completely together.

For now, please simply accept my love and enjoy the beauty of the world that I have created just for you.

Know that you are like a beautiful tree planted by streams of water bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither. Let your roots be deep in me that I may feed you with the living bread, the living water.

Please love as I love you and give to all that you can, that love which is never ending. I beg you to love me in return that our love may be complete.

My arms are wide open for you; please allow me to embrace you and hold you.

Do not let trials and tribulations make you begin to think that I do not love you; because that is just not true.

I have always loved you; I love you now, and I will always love you.

Remember that love is eternal. Please return my love in the best way that you can; and I know that your best will always be good enough and I know that your best will be different on different days, but please love me as I love you.

And please share my love with everyone that you meet; share it unconditionally.

With all my love for you always and forever, your Jesus.

Vicars Ponderings December 2020

Dear friends,

Well who, back in January 2020, would have predicted the year we have had, with the impact of living through a pandemic?

Life has certainly changed for all of us!!

So many plans cancelled or re-arranged.

Each of us will have different experiences, depending on our circumstances.

Many, like me, have had to cancel holidays. Sadly, many weddings and

baptisms have had to be rearranged. Family get-togethers have been cancelled or limited in numbers, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, the list I'm sure goes on.

We have had to be adaptable with our church services, what we had planned had to be quickly changed, and most of us having to learn how to use Zoom, who could have anticipated that?!

This year has had its ups and downs, with the first lockdown, gradually released and life seemed to be a little more normal, well as normal as it could, wearing masks and socially distancing.

It felt like we could plan a little, and at least we could open the churches for Sunday worship, after of course, the associated risk assessments!

We'd got into a new weekly rhythm, of Sunday and Wednesday services across the parish, and then lockdown 2!

Plans for Christmas, both for church services and family get togethers is uncertain and the importance of being flexible, as we move towards Christmas and what we are able to do.

All this uncertainty and disruption can maybe give us a new perspective on the Christmas story itself and how disrupting the events of the first Christmas were for those involved.

Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married, they no doubt had their plans for what their lives would look like, until the angel Gabriel turned up and sent all their plans out the window. Then, just as they were getting used to the idea that they would have a baby, the emperor ordered a census so they had to set off away from home on the long journey to Bethlehem. Not what they had planned at all.

Or what about the shepherds, sat happily in their fields just doing their job until the angels appeared and sent them running into the village to find the newborn Jesus. And then there were the wise men, sent on a perilous journey to a far off land because of the appearance of a new star in the sky. None of these people could have predicted or planned what would happen to them, but when the disruption came they went with it and in doing so they met God face to face.

We are all approaching Christmas with our own sets of expectations and hopes, rituals and traditions, and after all we've been through this year it may feel heartbreaking that we won't be able to celebrate in the ways that we usually do. But perhaps this Christmas, this strange and disrupted Christmas, gives us an opportunity to learn anew from Mary and Joseph, the wise men and the shepherds, and to allow the strange turn our lives have taken to lead us closer to the God who is always with us.

With Christmas Blessings

Catherine

Christmas Wishes

John, Sue and the Anderson Family would like to wish you all an enjoyable Christmas and a happy, healthy 2021. May the peace of the Lord be with you all at this difficult time.

On behalf of everyone at St Andrews- I pray for Peace and health this Christmas and that 2021 will bring Good news, Good Health. And may we be able to return to meeting together. May Gods Love Surround and support everyone.

Canon Jan x

Wishing everyone a safe and Peaceful Christmas.
God Bless

Liz, Chris & Jonathan.

Wishing everyone a Happy, Blessed and Peaceful Christmas

Jane & Brian

May we wish you a very happy and safe Christmas. It will not be like it has been before but let's be thankful for what we can have and look forward with optimism for the new year which awaits.

Gail and Dave

Wishing you all Christmas blessings as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. 2020 has been a challenge for us all and a pray that 2021 will bring peace and health.

Blessings

Rev Catherine

Hi Everyone,

We are praying for a safe and happy Christmas for you and your loved ones and a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year,

With our love and prayers,

Guy and Jackie x

Mistletoe

This time of year you can see all sorts of traditions played out with regard to Christmas decorations. Strict adherents use holly, ivy and of course, mistletoe. While holly and ivy are to be found in gardens and hedgerows, mistletoe usually only appears in greengrocers' shops, or high in a tree well out of reach.

Mistletoe is *hemiparasitic*, meaning that although its leaves enable it to feed itself through photosynthesis, its roots invade the host tree or shrub to extract water and other nutrients. Its favourite host trees are apple, lime, hawthorn, poplar or oak and it normally hangs as a large globe, tantalisingly high and totally visible once winter arrives and it is the only green left on the tree. There are some spectacular examples in Windsor Great Park, clearly visible from the path on the opposite side of the River Thames.

We all know about the almost translucent white berries, fleshy and sticky, which form in the forks of mistletoe's many branches. While they are toxic to humans, they are attractive to birds. When birds have enjoyed the juicy flesh, they wipe the remaining seeds off their beaks onto the nearest branch [somewhat like small children wiping sticky hands on any surface close by – mummy's face or clothes?]. With luck the seed remains stuck to the bark and solves mistletoe's problem of reproduction.

In Greek mythology, mistletoe gave access to the Underworld. Romans thought it represented Peace, Love and Understanding and perhaps that is how it has sidled into our Christmas celebrations. The earliest documentary evidence for kissing under mistletoe dates from the sixteenth century. Some people think a berry should be removed after each kiss. Given the small size of pieces generally available these days, perhaps that is a practice not to be pursued!

FAIR TRADE

The Fair Trade team have sent a donation of £75 to Traidcraft Exchange for their work in helping families in need across the globe

One of the people who migrated to Sedgley

After an enquiry from a relative concerning the location of his grandfather's grave, I found out quite a lot about one of the burials in what used to be Sedgley's main cemetery from 1870-1960 - **Gospel End Street Graveyard**, using Ancestry and Forces' War Records.

Hubert William Hobbs and his wife **Jane** were typical of the migration of agricultural workers from Worcestershire and Shropshire farms to the Black Country in the 19th and early 20th centuries, to work in the coal, brick and metal industries.

He was born 'William Hubert Hobbs' in Winchcombe, Gloucestershire in 1878.

In 1900, he married Jane Chad at the Parish Church in Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

By 1901, he was working as a 'carter', on Hill Farm in Oxenton, Gloucestershire; in 1911 he had moved to Neen Savage, just north of Cleobury Mortimer in Shropshire and was working as a 'waggoner'. The trades are similar and would have involved the care and maintenance of horses. At that point he had five children, including a son, Cecil, born in around 1908.

Shortly afterwards, however, he must have moved his family to 6, Gospel End Road, to work at the Earl of Dudley's Baggeridge Coal Mine in Gospel End Village.

At this point the First World War intervened. He joined (or was conscripted into) the British Army in 1916, serving till December 1918, when he was discharged to continue his employment at Baggeridge. His discharge papers listed eight children.

By 1939 he was living at 7, Penn Lane, Gospel End, near Nashes Coppice Farm and Gospel End Farm, both owned by members of the Pugh family. At the age of 61 he seems he had reverted to his original career, looking

after the horses on those farms.

When he died, his address was 27 North Oval, Upper Gornal. He died aged 82 on 27th December 1960 at 10 Burton Road (Burton Road Hospital). His grandson Derek recalls visiting him there as a child. Hubert's wife Jane had died in 1958 and is buried with him.

Alas Hubert and Jane's gravestone and the surrounding area are completely overgrown now, but its location reference, along with its inscription were recorded when a major survey of the graveyard took place in the 1980s.

Martin Jones

Christmas: Celebrating the Incarnation

C.S. Lewis called it the Grand Miracle and the Central Miracle. He noted that "Every other miracle prepares for this, exhibits this, or result's from this...The fitness, and therefore credibility, of the particular miracles depend on their relations to the Grand Miracle."

So if you can believe in Christmas – the incarnation of the Son of God: the Grand, the Central Miracle, you should have no problem believing the miracles in the Old Testament narratives or the miracle of the Virgin Birth, the miracles Jesus performed of feeding the multitudes, of His healing the sick, raising the dead, walking on water and calming the storms. You also need have no problem in believing in the bodily resurrection of Jesus and His ascension back into the heavenly realms, where He reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords.

In other words, to believe the essence of the Christmas story is to believe the miracle that will open the pathway to faith and eternal life, a life of following this risen Jesus as your Lord. To understand and believe the truth of the Incarnation will not only transform your idea of Christmas—it will change your life now and your everlasting destiny.

Mothers' Union

Thanks to Maureen Iddles and Judith Owen I was able to send a large box of teddies, rabbits, nurses and an amazing octopus, to Denise Bayliffe who heads the Prison Project. These toys will be given to children when visiting their Mum or Dad in prison.

I also took some knitted children's cardigans to Margaret Penn for the Teenage Mums Project. The items were all gratefully received.

Can you spot the octopus below?



Our first meeting on Tuesday 12th January, 2.15pm, in All Saints Church, will be a Communion service led by Revd Guy Hewlett. Holding the service in church will allow those unable to attend to join by Zoom, if they are on the internet.

This will only happen if circumstances at the time allow.

Our subscriptions, which remain at £25, will also be due on that date. Wherever possible a cheque would be preferable made out to **'The Mothers' Union, Diocese of Worcester, All Saints' and St Andrew's, Sedgley'**.

Those of you who have the Express and Star will have seen the photograph of an artwork installation by sculptor Peter Walker, entitled 'The Leaves of the Trees'. This is a poignant exhibition featuring 5000 steel sycamore maple leaves laid on the floor in Lichfield Cathedral to create the impression of Autumn leaves fallen from the trees. The sycamore leaf was chosen as it symbolises, strength, protection, eternity, and clarity. The steel was chosen to remind us of our resilience and collective strength. Each leaf has the word HOPE on it. Due to the lockdown the exhibition had to be cut short but the cathedral are hoping to bring it back again next year. It will move around the country and as the steel leaves age they will rust and change colour.

This wonderful artwork started me thinking about the word HOPE. The dictionary definition states that HOPE is 'a feeling of expectation. A desire for a particular thing to happen. Believing that something good may happen.'

My Grandmother lived on HOPE Street, a place, like so many others, where there was a close community, the door was always open, and people helped each other. This caring for neighbours and friends has come to the fore during this pandemic.

I can remember the comedian Bob HOPE who made us laugh. In these times we need to have times of laughter to release the anxieties we are often feel.

The birth of Jesus was a beacon of HOPE in the world. As we celebrate Christmas, in these unprecedented times, we remember that the HOPE Christ brings is just as powerful today as it was 2000 years ago.

Wishing you all a peaceful and safe Christmas and Hope for 2021.

Liz

Drive

He was a careful driver during the Christmas period. At the railway crossing he stopped, looked and listened. All he heard was the car behind him, smashing into his boot.

Christmas 2020!

No Nativity this year because the Three Wise Men face a travel ban
The shepherds have been furloughed.

The innkeeper has shut under tier 3 regulations and had a slump in bookings.

Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen.

As for Rudolph, with that red nose he should be isolating and taking a test.

Drunkard's Pie

Place grated rind and juice of one medium orange and 4 tablespoons of sweet sherry in a bowl.

Whip half a pint of double cream with half a teaspoon of Schwarz Ground Allspice.

One by one, dip 7 ounces of chocolate chip cookies into the orange mixture and sandwich together with a little of the cream to form a long roll.

Spoon the excess juice over the biscuits. Pipe or spoon remaining cream to cover the biscuits completely. Sprinkle with grated chocolate and orange rind.

Refrigerate overnight before serving.
May be frozen for 2 months.

Love Denise x



This Christmas Gornal & Sedgley team ministry would like to pray with you

Christmas can be a challenging time for many... then we throw in COVID-19!

We are asking you to “share your prayer” with us...

Take your star and write on who/what you want to pray for
You then simply hang your star on your tree

As you look at your beautiful tree, you can remember your prayer

If you like, over Christmas you can add prayers to your star or even make another one!

We also invite you to “share your prayer” on our page on Facebook in our “share your prayer post”

Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintssedgley>

Take a photograph of your star and share in the comments
If you don't use Facebook, you can "share your prayer" on email to
admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

We will collect all of our stars with prayers from across Gornal & Sedgley and join together in prayer



Team Ministry



Christingle Preparation

Sunday 13th December 2020

Join us to see how to make your
Christingle Oranges
at 4 p.m.



Team Ministry



Christingle

Thursday 24th December 2020

Streaming live from
All Saints' Church, Sedgley
at 4 p.m
on Facebook & Zoom.

200 Club & Covid 19

In view of the present situation and the uncertainty for 2021 it has been decided, most regrettably, that any organised activities for the forthcoming year are to be suspended. Therefore annual subscriptions are not required, annual dinner and monthly draws will not take place.

For and behalf of the Trustees. **R Berry**

Which Carol?

For those who have missed our Christmas quiz this year here is one to occupy you while the turkey is cooking! No prize this time, answers in the February magazine. **Liz & Chris.**

1. Not a bad monarch
2. A small community
3. Ceasefire carol
4. I spied a trio
5. Small carrier
6. A call to be loyal
7. Listen to the Holy messengers
8. Sacred evening
9. Decorative greenery
10. Stargazers from the East
11. Observe in the cold weather
12. Isaac Watts' happiness
13. They were working in the dark
14. Bells
15. Sent here for this one!
16. A small musician
17. Christina Rossetti gave her heart
18. Ultimate children's carol
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THANK YOU

The family of Elizabeth Anne Fieldhouse ("Liz") would like to thank everyone for their prayers, messages, cards, gifts, flowers and sympathy on the death of their beloved daughter, sister and mum.

Your kindnesses have overwhelmed us with love and support.

Thank you ALL from **Tony, Jean, Emma and Grace-Lily.**

I would like to thank my friends from All Saints for their kindness, support and prayers on the sad occasion of the death of my son Nick. He is loved greatly and will be sadly missed.

Freda Taylor



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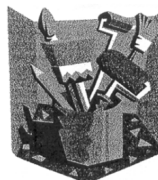
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Application for grants are invited from individuals or organisations resident in the area of benefit. Application forms are available from the incumbent of any of the parishes mentioned above, or alternatively from:

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The Rectory St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I am sorry I was not alive during that wonderful four-year period when Oliver Cromwell abolished Christmas; no Christmas parties, no carol services, no cards to send and no frantic last-minute shopping. That man was a hero.



Planning for Christmas at St James' normally starts on 2nd January. By Easter, the flowers for church have been carefully chosen to be colour coordinated, and the seating plans and table decorations for the Christmas party have been allocated (with nominated reserves in case someone should inconveniently die in the intervening eight months). Long before Summer is over, the tree lights have been tested, music for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service has been chosen and the service sheets printed.

Way before the dark nights set in, car parking attendants will have been found, those who are to light all the candles will have been rehearsed to perfection, and the brass lectern has had its annual polish.

We do not do spontaneity at St James the Least of All. If ever there was a service when time for something unexpected had to be allowed, its place would be announced in the order of service, how long the unexpected thing would happen for would have been decided by a committee, and who was to be spontaneous would have been allocated on a rota. But the one person none of these well-meaning, efficient, committed organisers can control is the Rector. You could call it a staff perk.

Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on the point of a collective nervous breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive grace make those in the kitchen wonder if the vegetables being boiled should better be served as thick soup.

I offer the helpful suggestion that the tree, having been installed and decorated in the chancel, may perhaps look better in the sanctuary and I turn all the heating off throughout the season, explaining that it will help the flowers to last. All Services will start five minutes early (was my watch rather fast?) so I can look disapprovingly at those still coming in while we are singing the first carol and making it clear that I think they had spent too long in the pub next door.

And so we all reach Christmas morning, with 12 months of planning having gone yet again slightly awry, with parishioners exhausted and I exhilarated at the chaos that has been created with such ease. Mr Cromwell, your spirit lives on.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

How to impress the cat this Christmas

If you are going to spend Christmas in a house with a resident cat, it may be worth knowing how to win its favour on the big day.

Recent research at Sussex University has found that humans become more attractive to a cat when they slowly blink at it, and mimic what is known as a 'cat smile.'

Cats are more likely to slow-blink at their owners after their owners have slow-blinked at them. Cats are also more likely to approach an outstretched hand after a person has slow-blinked the cat.

As one professor said, this is something 'you can try yourself with your own cat at home, or with cats you meet in the street. It's a great way of enhancing the bond you have with cats.' (Presuming you want such a bond!)

Try narrowing your eyes at them as you would in a relaxed smile, followed by closing your eyes for a couple of seconds. You should find they respond to you in the same way. You might even start a sort-of conversation.

Poinsettia

At this time of year one of the world's favourite flowers is the beautiful bright Poinsettia and associated with this is the story of a miracle. According to Mexican legend a poor girl was watching others taking gifts to a Statue of baby Jesus.

She began to cry for she had nothing to give.

An Angel suddenly appeared and told her to gather weeds along the road and then offer them as her present.

When she laid them beside the manger, they were instantly transformed into the brilliant Poinsettia.

The flower is named after Dr Joel Poinsett, the first American ambassador to Mexico who in 1828, fell in love with the beauty of the fiery red plant.

Later he took it to the United States.

Now each December Poinsettias by the million adorn festive homes around the world.

This Christmas like the year will be different and difficult, so many families not able to travel and meet.

We can't even have our usual services where we share the Greatest story ever told, and sing our praises to thank God for sending US his Son to a world in desperate need.

My prayer this Christmas to our world in Desperate need is that everyone will be able to stop , and just take a moment and remember That it was Love that first Christmas— and Gods Love is still real and there for everyone.

Father hear our prayer at Christmas, help us share the love you send
Reaching out across the nations Greet a stranger as a friend.
Thank you for the faith of Christmas

And the comfort we have found, knowing those who've gone before us,
Once again will gather round.

As we share the cards and greetings
Candles burning, clear and bright,
Help us reach the lost and lonely,
Bring them in to love and light.
Thank you for the hope of Christmas
All our doubts and fears dispel,
In our hearts we know the meaning—
Love is endless all will be well.

May God bless you all with peace this Christmas time.

Canon Jan

‘There, there dear ...’

A recent poll has found that the over-60s often face patronising, though usually well-meant, comments from the younger generation. One older woman was amused, when going into a shop before Christmas, to be met by a younger assistant who asked, ‘And how are we doing so far today?’

‘I suspect she had taken one look at me and decided that I was lucky to have even made it alive to lunchtime!’

Attention

With several relatives visiting, I was struggling to get my wife’s attention. So, I simply sat down and looked comfortable. That did the trick.



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SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

Sunday 6th Dec

9:30 St Andrews Communion

10:30 St Peter's Morning Prayer

10:30 All Saints Communion (also available on Zoom)

18:30 Compline (Zoom)

Wed 9th Dec

10:00 St Peter's Communion

Sunday 13th Dec

9:30 St Andrews Morning Prayer

10:30 St Peters Communion

10:30 All Saints Communion (Also on Zoom)

16:00 Christingle preparation (Zoom)

18:30 Compline (Zoom)

Wed 16th Dec

10:00 St Peters Communion

Sunday 20th Dec

08:00 All Saints Communion

9:30 St Andrews Carol Service

10:30 St Peters Carols & Communion

10:30 All Saints Carols & Communion (also on Zoom)

18:30 Compline (Zoom)

Wed 23rd Dec

10:00 St Peters Communion

Thurs 24th Dec (Christmas Eve)

16:00 Christingle (Zoom) also on Facebook live

23:15 St Andrews Midnight Mass

23:15 All Saints Midnight Mass

Fri 25th Dec Christmas Day

9:30 All Saints Communion (also on Zoom)

10:00 St Peters Communion

Sun 27th Dec

10:30 All Saints Communion (also on Zoom)

18:30 Compline (Zoom)

If attending church services in person please book a space