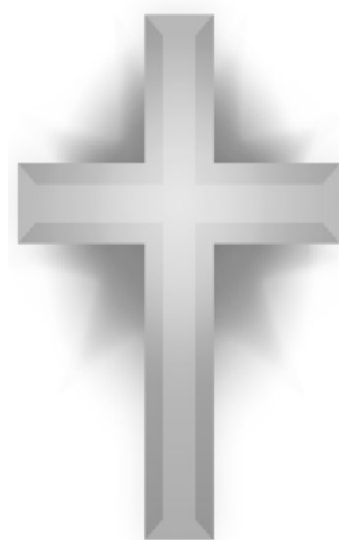
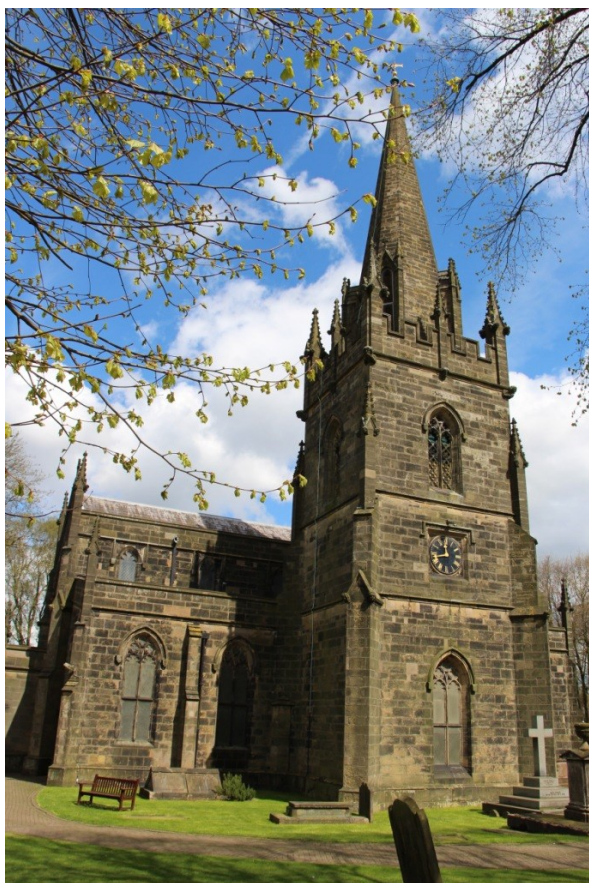


THE BEACON

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

April 2024

PARISH WIDE WHO'S WHO

Vicar	Rev Catherine Mitchell	01902 677897
Licensed Lay Minister	Canon Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Barbara Baker	01902 882847
Pastoral ALM	Tracey Bate	01902 880727
	Sarah Parker	01902 885570
	Kath Apperley	01902 663253
	Joan Sullivan	01902 661094
Worship ALM	Suzanne Bradley	01902 880055
Youth ALM	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
PCC Secretary	Kath Apperley	01902 663253
PCC Treasurer	Sheila Moss	01902 893570
Parish Office	Gail Griffiths	01902 540289
Web Editor	Martin Jones	01902 884461
	Mmjones29@gmail.com	

St Peters

Who's Who

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
Treasurer	Alan Turner	01902 670938
DCC Secretary	Rosemary Reed	01902 679007

All Saints Who's Who

Parish Wardens	Keith Tomlinson	01902 673366
	Steve Castle	07971 899072
Treasurer	John Anderson	01902 677666
DCC Secretary	John Anderson	01902 677666
Caretaker		
Bell Ringer	Mary Zielonka	01902 672541
Youth Leader	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
Ladies' Society	Geraldine Baker	01902 674608
Mothers' Union	Liz Williams	01902 672880
Web Editor	Martin Jones	01902 884461
Server/Verger		
	Steve Castle	07971 899072
Noah's Ark Parent & Toddler Group	Linda Edwards	01902 672556

Funerals in March

- March 1st Peter Swann Gornal Wood
Crispen Ridge Gornal Wood
- March 5th Andrew John Johnson Gornal Wood
- March 13th Valerie Ann Mason Gornal Wood
- March 14th Karen Julie Cox Gornal Wood
- March 21st Peter David Bradley All Saints
- March 22nd Paul Joseph George Hadlington Gornal Wood
- March 25th Joseph Cox

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 May magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

Friday 22nd April

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.

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.

**If you wish to enquire about a wedding or baptism
please contact**

Gail Griffiths

At the Parish Office - tel 01902 540289

email admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

FROM CANON JAN HUMPHRIES

I found these words in a lovely book written by Patience Strong.

I am truly blessed with wonderful friends and I think these words are so true and comforting.

Together

Trouble would be twice as hard with nobody to share it,
No good companion at your side to help you grin and bear it
Grief would last much longer if you bore it all alone.
Few are strong enough to stand entirely on their own.
Human hearts need sympathy and that is why God, sends ~
Consolation through the understanding of our friends,
For a friend can banish clouds like sun in stormy weather,
Nothing is so bad if you can talk it out together.

By the time you read this magazine we will have celebrated the glory of Easter.

Starting with Palm Sunday when we remember how Jesus rode on a Donkey through the streets of Jerusalem, with the Crowds shouting Hosannah.

And just a few days later many of the same people were Shouting Crucify.

From that horrific death came life ~~~ because Jesus died to give us all the gift of Eternal life, the reassurance that death is not the end.

Spring is definitely here, the clocks will be going forward the mornings are light, the birds are Singing.

The beautiful spring flowers are all around, the trees are covered with leaves blossom.

Giving us all new hope.

This Poem entitled the Tree, made me think about our Lord who went to the cross for us.

The Tree.

I am your friend, your needs I meet
I am the floor beneath your feet
I am the beam that takes the strain
I am the door against the rain.

I am the peg, the post, the tub,
I am the oar, the bat, the club,
I am the stick for summer days,
I am the log, for winter's blaze.

I am the altar of the lord,
I am the sacramental board.
And at the last on earth's brown breast,
I hold you in your place of rest.

The Parish has been so blessed to have Revd Calum Burke with us on placement for the past twelve months. He has been a real joy to work alongside.

We are very sorry to see him go, but wish him Carolyn and the children every happiness in their new home.

I know Calum will be a source of great blessing to his new parish.

Canon Jan

THANK YOU

a big thank you to all who came to Crispin's funeral. We collected 612 .25 so it has been split to his 3 charities **Anne Ridge**

Hearts for Compton Care

Thank you to everyone who knitted or crocheted so many beautiful hearts to share with patients and their families at Compton Care. I know how much comfort these simple gifts of love can be in such trying circumstances. Thank you.'

Best wishes

Kath

Ladies Society – March 2024

The AGM was the focus of our meeting in March and the business aspects were dealt with in the usually efficient manner. Our Chair reported on the 10 meetings held in the past year and thanked members for keeping in touch. We were reminded of the importance and value of having female friends to meet with.

It was decided that any excess money collected for flowers in Church would go into the Church account in order to help to finance the Flower Festival in 2029 which will be the current Church building's centenary. We have a full programme of events planned for the coming year. In April we are going to see *The Beauty and The Beast* at the Dormston Centre. On 8th May we will be sharing a lunch at The Summerhouse in Sedgley.

We were delighted to see some new faces at this meeting – please do come along. You would be most welcome. We meet on the first Monday of the month at 11.30am in the Community Room. Our next meeting is in June when Paul Wilmott will be addressing us – which is bound to be entertaining.

Karen Evans

LONDON MARATHON

Many of you will know that Steve Castle, one of our Church Wardens at All Saints, and his son Harry are running the London Marathon this year.

They are raising money for Dementia UK, if you would like to sponsor Steve or Harry please use the link below, to find out more and donate

<https://2024tcs londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/harrycastledementiauk2024>

Alternatively, cash donations are more than welcome

MOTHERS' UNION

Thank you to Calum who took our Midday Communion last month and stayed for lunch and fellowship afterwards. We wish Calum well in his new appointment in the Bradford Diocese and hold him, Carolyn, Niamh and Rory in our prayers.

Thank You

A big thank you to all who have so generously donated to our Lent Collection. I shall be taking the items to the Women's Refuge the week after Easter and I know they will be very much appreciated.

Thank you to those members who gave to 'Make a Mothers' Day', we have sent £100 to the appeal.

~~~~~

This March, a joint delegation of Mothers' Union and the Anglican Communion attended the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. They advocated:

Funding of Women's Literacy programmes, to enable women to lift themselves and their families out of poverty, increase their self-esteem, improve the wellbeing of their communities and reduce gender-based violence.

Engagement with faith-based organisations to implement grassroots transformational programmes, which are sustainable, because they are anchored in their communities.

Reform global financial injustice

## Appreciation

The other evening, we had no water due to a burst pipe down the road. Fortunately, the tea was cooking so no problem there. However, no water to wash up or make a hot drink or for the worker coming in to have a shower!

The water was only off for two hours but it was amazing how much we missed being able to just turn on the tap and have instant water – something it is easy to take for granted.

We were lucky, two hours was nothing. There are people in the world for whom clean water 'on tap' is not an option. It does us good to do without something, however inconvenient at the time, to appreciate what we have.

Dates:

2<sup>nd</sup> April Education Alternatives in School, Elizabeth Jenkins  
7<sup>th</sup> May Compston Brothers Bakery, Kathryn Osborne

Wishing you a Happy and Blessed Easter.

**Liz Williams**

---



New business owner Tracy took over the salon almost two years ago.

We offer all colour services, perms, cutting, styling and hair for occasions. All the stylists have over 25 years + experience. We offer flexible working hours to suit everyone's busy lifestyles and are open

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**01902 882161** or pop in and see us.

---



## Sedgley's 'Sergeant Pepper'

One of the more intriguing graves that still remains in All Saints' former Vicar Street Graveyard, now Vicar Street Gardens, is that of Joseph Nicholds.

As one enters the gardens through the archway in Vicar Street, turn right and follow the footpath that leads to Ladies Walk. The gravestone is laid flat on the ground at the foot of the gardens' only public bench.

Nicholds was born in Coseley in around 1785. As a young man he was a limestone breaker in the Deepfields iron furnaces nearby, but also a musician who played the 'Ophicleide', a keyed brass instrument invented in 1817, in the band that accompanied singing at Providence Baptist Chapel.

Around 1820 Nicholds, and later his three sons, joined the band attached to Wombwell's Travelling Menagerie (an early type of zoo) where he was its bandmaster for 21 years.

He left the Menagerie in 1844, and became well known as the composer of the Oratorio 'The Triumphs of Zion' which was performed in Wolverhampton in September that year.

He was also a key composer of so-called 'West Gallery music'. In the days before church organs became the norm, music would be provided by musicians who sat in the West Gallery of churches. Thomas Hardy featured one such set of West Gallery musicians in his early novel 'Under the Greenwood Tree'.

Nicholds moved to the Ebbw Vale area of Wales in 1850 and continued composing hymn tunes. He returned in 1855 and became the proprietor of the Hop and Barleycorn Inn, Coseley.

His most famous work in the later part of his life was the oratorio 'Babylon' first performed at the newly-completed Ebenezer Baptist Church in 1857, but not published till after his death.

In 1858 he was admitted to Dudley Workhouse in Shaver's End and died there on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1860. His old friends carried his coffin out of the workhouse and placed it in a horse-drawn hearse.

Singing various hymns and compositions as they journeyed, they accompanied his coffin to Vicar Street graveyard.

Only the inscribed tablet now remains of what was once a 10ft tall obelisk-topped monument raised by public subscription in 1871 – a similar style of monument survives in today's gardens.

The part of his life that most captures the imagination is his career with Wombwell's Menagerie's brass band. At that time such bands were very popular and dressed in military uniforms to drum up trade at fairs and circuses.

In 1967, John Lennon and Paul McCartney wrote a song called 'Being For The Benefit of Mr. Kite!' inspired by a Victorian circus poster from 1843 that Lennon bought in an antiques store. 'Mr Kite' was a showman who performed at the Fanques' Circus Royal in Rochdale mentioned on the poster, where Nicholds also performed as leader of Wombwell's Brass Band.

So, it could (loosely!) be argued that Sedgley's own Joseph Nicholds was the inspiration for the fictitious 'Sergeant Pepper' figure whose name is used in the Beatles' 1967 album /Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band'!

**Martin Jones**

---

## **Seen in a West Country church:**

Whenever I see a little church,  
I always pay a visit.  
So when at last I'm carried in,  
the Lord won't ask 'Who is it?'

---

## **Choir**

Seen in a parish magazine: 'Next Sunday the choir will give a recital, after which the church will be closed for repairs.'

# **Can you help to improve safeguarding in the Diocese of Worcester?**

Our work in safeguarding in the Diocese is being independently audited this year and the auditors would like to hear from you!

Bishop Martin wants to encourage everyone to give their opinion and has asked that this article, published in the Diocesan Mailing, be circulated as widely as possible.

“The safety of all those who wish to worship in our churches should always be at the forefront of our minds. That is true for those who work or volunteer in our parishes and also for all of us who work in a diocesan context. We are keen to ensure that we are doing all that we can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

The Church of England has commissioned INEQE Safeguarding Group to conduct a series of audits of dioceses to look at our work in safeguarding and suggest areas where we could make improvements. As part of this audit process INEQE would like to hear from as many different people as possible from across our diocese and have put together an online survey through which individuals can comment in confidence about their impressions and experiences of safeguarding in the Diocese.

The surveys are both anonymous (the audit team are not seeking to identify individuals) and confidential (individuals will not be identified in their report). No one from the Church of England or any other body will be provided with or have access to survey responses.

Please consider filing in this survey openly honestly and letting the audit team know your opinions. Our audit will take place from 1st July but the surveys are open now and will close at 11.30pm on Wednesday 1st May 2024 to enable the audit team to go through them.

To access the surveys please visit:

<https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/worcester/>

Do encourage others to do this too.

Thank you for your help \_listening to and learning from those in our parishes is an important part of the audit. Only by working together can we strive to make our churches a safe place for everyone.”

Bishop Martin

The Independent Safeguarding Poster gives further information about INEQE and how you can help, as well as details of some helplines available. They want to hear from parishioners, anyone who attends our churches or activities that take place on our premises, volunteers, employees, PCC and DCC members. If you would like to discuss this or any other safeguarding matter please contact me.

**Barbara Baker** - Parish Safeguarding Officer.

---

## **World Autism Acceptance Week,**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Autism is on the rise. Or at least, the recognition of it is. According to the website psychcentral.com, there was a 787% exponential increase in the number of people who were diagnosed with autism between 1998 and 2018 in the UK.

The National Autistic Society says that in the UK, more than one in every 100 people are now on the autism spectrum. It reckons that around 700,000 adults and children in the UK suffer with the condition to some degree.

All of which means that you probably know of someone who has autism, to some degree. And you may know that, as it says on the NHS website:

*Autistic people may act in a different way to other people, ... and find it hard to understand how other people think or feel. They may find things like bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, stressful, or uncomfortable. They may get anxious or upset about unfamiliar situations and social events and take longer to understand information.*

To help people with autism, you may wish to support this ‘acceptance week’, by going to the National Autistic Society’s website, <https://www.autism.org.uk> and taking part in some way in their fundraising campaign.

Tell the **Independent Safeguarding Audit**

The INEQE Safeguarding Group is an independent company of safeguarding professionals.

We have been asked to carry out Audits of the Church of England to make sure dioceses, cathedrals and palaces are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

Listening to and learning from parishes is an important part of the Audit.



**INEQE**  
SAFEGUARDING GROUP

## You can help us

If you have any information, concerns or worries about something that happened in or is related to your Church body, you can contact us via this webpage.

[ineqe.com/churchofengland/worcester](https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/worcester)



Access the webpage by scanning the QR code

## Tell us your views

Your participation is critically important and you can help by taking part in an anonymous and confidential survey.

We encourage you to be open and honest. We will only share information if what you tell us indicates a serious risk of harm.

[ineqe.com/churchofengland/worcester](https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/worcester)

Closing date is **1<sup>st</sup> May 2024**



Don't forget - If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, it is important that you quickly get the right help – **call the police on 999**

### NSPCC Helpline

- ☎ Helpline - 0800 5000
- ✉ Email - [help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk)

### Childline

- ☎ Helpline - 0800 1111
- 🌐 Web - [childline.org.uk](https://childline.org.uk)

### Safe Spaces Support Service

- ☎ Helpline - 030 0303 1056
- ✉ Email - [safespaces@firstlight.org.uk](mailto:safespaces@firstlight.org.uk)
- 🌐 Web - [safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk](https://safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk)



## Speed cameras and Moses

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. (1 Timothy 2:2)*

It is not often you get Moses and the local police popping up in the same sermon. I was thinking about the Bible passage that has Moses' second attempt at the Ten Commandments, one of God's greatest gifts to the world.

God had given Moses the laws, but he broke them in disgust when he found the people were behaving so badly. God asked him up to the mountain again and then gave him a second set. "Keep taking the tablets"! I was walking in my village and wondered why the traffic was driving so peacefully and slowly. When I got to the lay-by to catch a bus into town, I saw the explanation. There was a police van fitted with a speed camera. The cars were driving slowly, well within the 30mph limit. I nearly went up to the officer to thank them, and to ask if they could come every day. It was a good illustration for the sermon I was preparing. We do not want to get caught ourselves! We expect everyone else to obey the law, but often find exceptions when we are late or have an important errand. We repeatedly make mistakes but have a loving and gracious God.

As Christians we should be good drivers, and in my case a good pedestrian and road user. We should take an interest in local affairs and find out how parish and town councils deal with these issues. We should pray for people in authority and the police-officer who spent a long Saturday morning looking at slow traffic!

---

### Do it

Here's a sure-fire way to cross off every item on your To-Do list: Do the chores first, then write them down and *then* cross them off!



# FAMILY FUN COLOUR RUN



## Details

- 5K event
- Sunday, May 12th
- East Park,  
Wolverhampton
- Tickets £10  
children and £15  
adults

Join us for the most fun  
you'll have on a run, all in  
aid of the Beacon Centre  
for the Blind.

01902 880 111  
enquiries@beaconvision.org  
Registered charity number:  
216092



[www.beaconvision.org/colour-run](http://www.beaconvision.org/colour-run)

Hey, Sedgley!

# Tired of buying kilos of potatoes at Asda when you only want two?

Buy exactly what you need at your  
local greengrocer.

📍 Concord Market,  
Dudley Street,  
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🕒 Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 9am - 4pm.

🅑 Limited parking 'round the back.

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### Blue Light Breakfast

Last Wednesday of each month  
10am - 11.30am

Join us each month for delicious breakfast treats and drinks. It's our way of saying thank you!



### Stay and Play\*

Wednesdays (Starts 6th Sept)  
11am - 12pm

Bring along your little ones for fun and games with our residents and make new friends.



### Dementia Café

Last Friday of each month  
10.30am - 12pm

We'll have delicious homemade refreshments and a variety of entertainment and activities.

*\*Please call our friendly team to confirm your space.*

# 01384 928 404

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- PILATES THURSDAY 6.15PM-7.15PM

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# Children's Good Friday Workshop

for ages 4 to 11



**Free Entry**

**Easter Crafts**

**Card Making**

**Painting**

**Cake Decorating**

**Refreshments**

**Prizes**

**Short Praise with songs at 11:45am**

**All children should be accompanied by an adult.  
Babies and toddlers also welcome.**



**Friday 29th March 2024  
All Saints' Church Hall, Sedgley  
10:00am to 12:00pm**

## **Where are the Chibok schoolgirls now?**

Ten years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014, the Boko Haram Islamic terrorist group kidnapped 276 female students from the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Nigeria. Some of the girls escaped, some were rescued, or have been reported dead. But over 100 are still missing, fate unknown.

The girls, who lived in surrounding areas, were seized at gunpoint at night from the boarding school, where they had gone to take important final exams. It was believed to be safe because Chibok had never been attacked before. Many of the girls were Christian.

Boko Haram is opposed to western-style education, because they say it corrupts the values of Muslims. The name Boko Haram in the local Hausa dialect means “Western education is forbidden”.

Some of the girls escaped within hours – many of them by jumping off lorries – but a total of 219 girls were taken away. About 100 have been exchanged for Boko Haram militants, following negotiations arranged by the Red Cross. Two others escaped in 2016 and 2017, and one was found hiding in the forest with a child.

Meanwhile the Nigerian army launched a major offensive against Boko Haram, with help from the US, UK and France, and were said to have regained nearly all the occupied territory in north-east Nigeria. But no more of the Chibok girls were found, and in the years since then, many more reports of atrocities have continued to come in.

---

## **Heaven**

Seen in a parish magazine: “We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be ‘Heaven – how do we get there?’

Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King’s Arms.

# THE SEDGLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The Sedgley Educational Trust is established to advance education, including religious education, in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England in the area of benefit: that being the ecclesiastical parishes of All Saints', Sedgley, St Mary the Virgin, Sedgley and St Chad's, Coseley.

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

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



**ALL Saints Church Hall**

**Working for the Community**

**Vicar Street, Sedgley.**

## **Reeling In the Years**

Films from days gone by for older people  
to enjoy and reminisce without charge

**@2pm**

**18th April — “Me and My Gal”**

Refreshments 1.30pm

If interested, please contact Gail 01902 540289  
[admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk](mailto:admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk)

# Reeling In Years Programme

All Saints Church Hall

Refreshments at 1:30pm

Film starts 2pm

January 18th

It's a Wonderful Life 1:36

\*\*\*

February 15<sup>th</sup>

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers 1:42

\*\*\*

March 21<sup>st</sup>

Meet me in St Louis 1:53

\*\*\*

April 18<sup>th</sup>

Me and My Gal 1:44

\*\*\*

May 16<sup>th</sup>

Roman Holiday 1:53

\*\*\*

June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Summer Holiday 1:47

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## Remembering Lord Byron, the ‘gloomy egoist’

It was 200 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1824, that Lord Byron died. One of the greatest British poets and a leading figure in the Romantic movement, he died of sepsis/fever while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. He was 36.

Byron was born in London but brought up in Aberdeen and relished the Scottish connection. His childhood was impoverished, and to a certain degree abusive, but at the age of ten he inherited his great uncle’s title and went on to Harrow and Cambridge.

After early rejections, his poetry was widely admired in England and in Europe, initially through *Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage*, which was autobiographical and presented him as a “gloomy egoist”. His character fluctuated between kind and gentle on the one hand and selfish and cynical on the other. Early exposure to Calvinism combined with the extremes of his later life – multiple affairs – made him antagonistic to Christianity but tormented by it. He once described man as “half dust, half deity, alike unfit to sink or soar.”

Partly because of criticism of his scandalous lifestyle, he left England and eventually lived in Switzerland and then Italy with his fellow poet Shelley – having an affair with Shelley’s wife’s half-sister. Earlier he had married Anne Isabella Milbanke, by whom he had a daughter who achieved fame as Ada Lovelace, a mathematical prodigy regarded by some as the first computer programmer.

His wife eventually left him, possibly because of his incest with his own half-sister, Augusta Leigh.

Lord Byron moved to Greece to support the Greeks – whose attitude to life he found refreshing – in their struggle for independence from Turkey. He is widely admired in Greece as a result.



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**Team Ministry**

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**Do you feel lonely in a crowd?**

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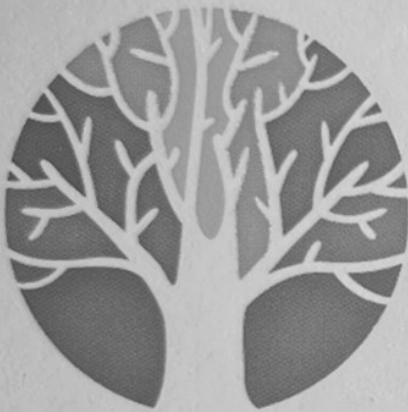
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*Romans 1:20*



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## The Rectory

### St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

I am not the least surprised you have got yourself into trouble; innovation is never to be encouraged. New ideas tend to cause revolutions. The move from incandescent lightbulbs to energy saving ones may ultimately change the Church of England.

Change is something everyone claims to be in favour of – provided it has no measurable effect on their own lives. I remember as a young curate once suggesting that at the Harvest Supper, tables might be enlarged so that eight people could sit together rather than the traditional six, thus helping more people get to know one another. The response would have been similar if I had suggested we travel to London to murder the Prime Minister. I was firmly told that tables for six had been perfectly adequate for parishioners in Queen Victoria's day. For the rest of my curacy, I was regarded as a revolutionary, to be watched carefully.

So, at your last visit to our church, to suggest that our 11am Mattins might be moved to 10.30am, in order to encourage those who wanted to have more of the day free to themselves, certainly lobbed a hand grenade among the post-Service coffee cups. The only person who was mildly in favour was Colonel Wainwright, who quickly realised that it would give him an extra half-hour at the gin and tonics before lunch. Should you ever feel that people lack imagination, you should watch them in action when they find reasons for resisting an unwelcome suggestion. One said that the time couldn't be moved, since it would then be too early for the local bus – omitting to mention that none of our congregation travel to church by bus and that the service doesn't run on Sundays anyway. Another pointed out that it would confuse those who didn't attend church – not explaining why if they never attended, it mattered what time the Service was. A third, rather touchingly mentioned that it wouldn't give the rector time to enjoy his breakfast after the rigours of the 8am Service.

Your suggestion did, however, serve one useful purpose; it brought our congregation together in united opposition. They may not necessarily always know what they are for, but they certainly know what they are against. For that, I thank you.

Your loving uncle

**Eustace**

---

## **The pet crisis**

More than half of us in the UK own a pet. That is 17 million households. But we are abandoning them at an alarming rate. The RSPCA warns we are offloading our animals at “unmanageable levels,” and stretching their welfare services to the limit.

The turning point was the pandemic. Stuck at home during lockdown, we went animal-mad, and our pet dogs soared from nine million in 2019 to 13 million in 2022.

But four million puppies purchased during the pandemic was not a good idea. Since then, a fifth of all those puppies have been reported as having behavioural problems such as clinginess, aggression, or being very hard to train.

On top of that, the cost-of-living crisis has left many people struggling to even feed their pet. According to the Office for National Statistics, the cost of owning a dog is estimated to have jumped by 12.8 per cent – around £256 – over the past year to total around £2,500.

All in all, it is the ‘perfect storm’. The RSPCA received 20,999 reports of abandoned animals last year. That is 5,000 more than in 2020.

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# The Treasure of Easter!

It's amazing what treasure can be unearthed with metal detectors! In this season of Easter, let's rediscover the greatest unburied treasure of the Resurrection.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that God *'has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.'* (1 Peter 1: 3,4). What does he say about this treasure?

On the one hand, it is the *reason for hope*. Peter was writing to Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who faced persecution under the Emperor Nero. In an uncertain world we know that Jesus suffered, but by His resurrection has secured eternal life for us. This inheritance not only guarantees life now, but also for eternity, as it *'is kept in heaven for you'* (4).

Do we share this confidence? D.L. Moody, the 19th Century American evangelist, spoke of the time when people would read his obituary: *'Don't believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now'*.

On the other hand, this treasure is a *source of joy*. This unburied treasure fills us *'with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.'* (8,9). We face all kinds of trials in our lives, but God uses them to refine our faith and character, *'These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.'* (7).

We reflect this treasure by developing the Jesus' character and becoming more holy, obedient and loving.

*'Christmas is the promise, and Easter is the proof'!*

# What's the Big Idea?

## an Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Deuteronomy & Joshua

The setting for these books is Israel's entry into the promised land after 40 years of wanderings in the wilderness. Deuteronomy gives us Moses' addresses on the plains of Moab, as the Israelites prepare to enter Canaan. The book of Joshua recounts the crossing of the Jordan and the victories that give the people control of Canaan.

The theme of Deuteronomy is God's covenant and his call for His people's obedience, loyalty and love. The 'shema' (Heb: 'hear'), expresses this response to God: *'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.'* (Deut. 6:4-6).

The book contains instruction on how to live intentionally as God's people in response to His love and mercy. Total loyalty to God is also crucial, with the worship of any other gods being totally rejected. It is also widely quoted in the NT eg. Jesus' temptations (Deut. 8:3, 6:13, 16).

The book of Joshua, with its description of the conquest of the land and the destruction of cities and peoples, reminds us that God's love and purposes for us are worked out in the messes, storms and sins of our daily lives. As God says Joshua: *'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.'* (Joshua 1:9).

Joshua ('The Lord saves') is the same name as Jesus Himself. Jesus overcame all powers of evil to bring God's people into their eternal 'rest' (Heb 4:1-11)

## Appreciating Johann Sebastian Bach

Three hundred years ago, on 7th April 1724, the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's *St John Passion* was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

It was put on as part of Good Friday Vespers at St Nicholas Church, having been transferred from St Thomas at the last moment by the music council. Bach, who had just turned 39, agreed to the move, while pointing out that the booklet had already been printed, there was no room immediately available for the musicians, and the harpsichord needed some repair. These problems were overcome.

Bach was already highly regarded, but primarily as a harpsichordist and organ expert. Later seen as one of the best composers of all time – renowned for such works as the *Brandenburg Concertos* and his *Mass in B Minor* – he was one of a large family of north German musicians. He is widely praised as a great synthesiser of styles and traditions.

The *St John Passion*, written during his first year as director of church music in Leipzig, was designed to be used as part of a church service. It follows John 18 and 19 in the Luther Bible, but the writer of the libretto is not known. A possible earlier Passion, written in Weimar, is lost. Nowadays the *St John Passion* is heard mainly in the 1739–1749 version, which was never performed in Bach's lifetime, though he made many revisions to the original before his death.

---

### Worry

I have so many problems that if a new one comes along today, it will be at least two weeks before I can worry about it.

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### Beyond

I'm living so far beyond my income that we may almost be said to be living apart.



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# HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

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Church Addresses:

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**St Andrew's**, The Straits.  
DY3 3AB

**St Peter's**, Church Hall,  
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## Monday 25th March

7:30pm Holy Communion at St Andrew's

## Tuesday 26th March

7:30pm Holy Communion at St Peter's

## Wednesday 27th March

10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's

7:30pm 'The Liberator' at Dormston School. Book online at [www.seaty.co.uk/theliberator](http://www.seaty.co.uk/theliberator). Tickets £5+small admin fee

## Maundy Thursday

7:30pm Holy Communion with the Bishop of Dudley at All Saints

## Good Friday

10:00am-12:00pm Children's Good Friday craft workshop at All Saints Church Hall

2:30pm Stations of the Cross at St Andrew's

2:30pm Stations of the Cross at St Peter's

## Holy Saturday

7:30pm Easter Vigil with Holy Communion at All Saints

## Easter Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion at All Saints

9:30am Holy Communion with the Bishop of Dudley at St Andrew's.

10:00am Holy Communion at St Peter's

11:00am Holy Communion at All Saints



# **SERVICES FOR THE MONTH - APRIL**

## **SUNDAY 7TH APRIL**

11AM TEAM SERVICE ALL SAINTS

6.30PM EVENSONG ALL SAINTS

## **WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL**

10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS

## **SUNDAY 14TH APRIL**

8AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS

9.30AM WORSHIP FOR ALL ST ANDREWS

10AM WORSHIP FOR ALL ST PETERS

11AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS

## **WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL**

10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS

## **SUNDAY 21ST APRIL**

9.30AM WORSHIP FOR ALL ST ANDREWS

11AM FAMILY SERVICE ALL SAINTS

## **WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL**

10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS

## **SUNDAY 28TH APRIL**

8AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS

9.30AM WORSHIP FOR ALL ST ANDREWS

10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS