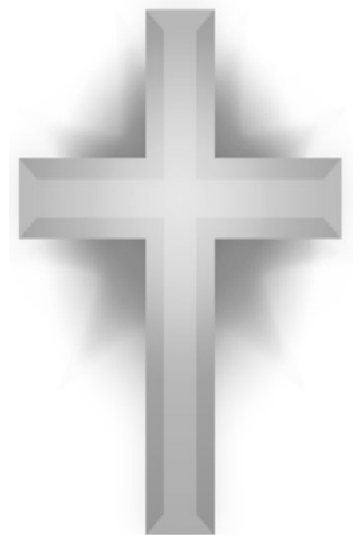
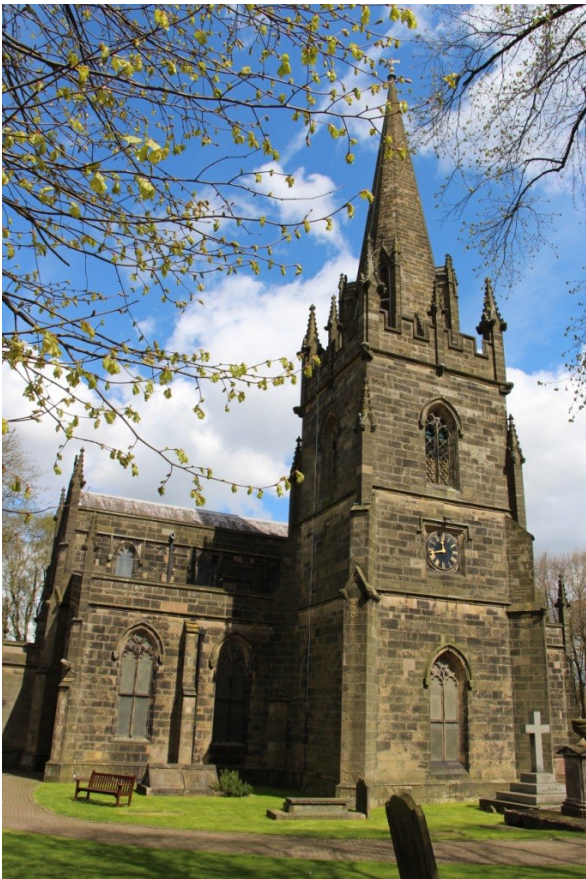


THE BEACON

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

July/August 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	VACANT	

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	(VACANT)	
Server/Verger		
	Steve Castle	07971 899072
Noah's Ark		
Parent & Toddler Group	Linda Edwards	01902 672556

SAFEGUARDING

The Parish of Gornal and Sedgley is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults. We follow the House of Bishops guidance. If you or someone you know feels unsafe, please contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Barbara Baker, Tel 01902 882847, safeguarding@allsaintssedgley.co.uk
or Acting Team Rector Rev Catherine Mitchell
Tel 01902 677 897, vicargornalandsedgley@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

(other contacts available on our website www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk)

Funerals in June

20th June Maud Lilian Minnie Jones - Gornal Wood

24th June Valerie Joan Wright - All Saints

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 September magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

Friday 23rd August

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



Grief is hard.

Death can impact
all of life.

The Bereavement
Journey[®]
a place to talk

7 Sessions of films
and discussion
for *anyone* bereaved *anytime*

Topics include:

- Attachment, separation and loss
- The pain and responses of grief
- Anger and guilt
- Coping with others' reactions
- Delayed and suppressed grief
- Adjusting to change
- Moving forward healthily
- Faith questions – a Christian perspective (optional)

To find out more visit:
thebereavementjourney.org

Running soon:

**All Saints Church,
Community Room
Ladies' Walk, Sedgley**

July 30th,
August 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th
September 3rd and 10th
All at 2:00 p.m.
Contact: 01902 540289 to book.
Donation £6.00

Message from Canon Jan

On May the 11th The Sun shone brightly for St Andrew's Summer Fayre.

It was the first time in seven years that we were able to have tables outside, and people were able to sit and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and food , in the sunshine.

We owe a big Debt of gratitude to wonderful friends of St Andrew's who once again came to help cook the fabulous bacon and sausage baps, prepare fresh sandwiches.

Fill Endless teapots and pots of hot water for coffees.

Continuously washed up . Got the Stalls ready and stood ~~ encouraging people to come and have a go on the tombola, buy a puzzle or some books or toys , Cakes , Crafts.

Those selling the raffle tickets.

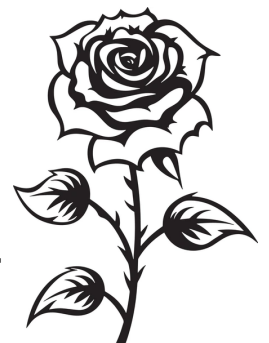
Everyone who willingly donated . From everyone at St Andrew's, a Massive Thank You.

We raised a Fabulous £1,321~

We have a wonderful community, for which we truly thank God.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ROGER DAVID HURST

we would like to thank all who came to the church on Monday 20th May for Roger's funeral and Canon Jan Humphries for the most beautiful service. Also church wardens Keith Tomlinson, Steve Castle and Joan Sullivan for the courtesy and warm welcome extended to everyone; including Gail who co-ordinated the arrangements.



We are so grateful for the cards, messages, flowers, love and kindness which surrounds us and for the generous donations amounting to £641, forwarded to Parkinsons U.K.

We will remember this day always.

God bless, from Norma, John and family.

Assistance with Altar Flowers

We are looking for a volunteer to change the Altar Flowers at All Saints about five or six times a year at various times usually in line with the seasons.

The Flowers are all artificial and it is a role that usually takes no more than a couple of hours every couple of months.

Guidance, support and if required transport will be available and it can be carried out to suit one's diary.

If you are interested in helping to make our Church building remain attractive, please contact one of our Church Wardens Keith Tomlinson or Steve Castle.

Many thanks.

RETIREMENT

Joyce Withers is retiring from our Noah's Ark Toddler Group after over 30 years volunteering.

Joyce has been such a valuable member of our team.

One of the highlights of our mornings was when Joyce played the piano for our singing and music session.

Our kitchen won't be the same without Joyce serving the teas and coffees.

We thank you Joyce for your loyal service, you will be greatly missed.

MOTHERS' UNION

Our meeting in June was in church when Joan Sullivan led us in a meditative walk around the building entitled 'Look Around You'. It was a time to reflect on the different areas of the church, such as the doors, font, altar, and stained glass windows. An opportunity to take time to appreciate the church and think of the many people who have passed through its doors over the years, for baptisms, weddings and times of need. For happy and sad times the church has been there in the lives of so many people. We all appreciated the time spent on this meditative walk.

Needs at the Refuge

The Refuge is in need of:

Cooking utensils,
Tea Towels,
Oven Gloves,
Oven Trays

There will be a box at the back of All Saints' and St Andrew's Churches for any donations which will be most appreciated.

Mary Sumner Day Service

Holy Trinity, Amblecote, are holding their Mary Sumner Day service on Saturday 3rd August, at 11.00am, followed by a buffet lunch. It would be good if some members were able to attend and support Amblecote Mothers' Union. Please let me know if you need a lift.

Dates:

2nd July 2.30pm Afternoon Tea with - The Sedgley Strummers
11th July - Diocesan AGM, St Saviours, Hagley, 1.30pm - 4.00pm
13th July - 'Celebration of Family Life', Pershore Abbey, 2.00pm
3rd August - Mary Sumner Day Service, Holy Trinity. Amblecote, 11.00am
9th August - Mary Sumner Day

Hoping that you all enjoy the Summer whatever you may be doing. Take time to relax, enjoy time with friends and family and time to do those things there never seems to be time to do the rest of the year.

Liz Williams

AN ANGEL IN HUMAN FORM

Do you believe in angels?

My mother-in-law is convinced that an angel saved her life. This is the story she used to love to recount to us all. As she was a woman who never exaggerated and who never veered from the truth, we had no reason to doubt her story.

As a child, my mother-in-law, Emily, had been very ill, but the doctors did not know what was wrong. She had to use a wheelchair, and was not able to attend school. Her future looked grim! She had been told that she would probably die before adulthood.

When she was age 12, she became very ill and everyone believed she was dying.

As she lay in bed, there was a knock on their front door. A man stood there asking for water. He was kindly told to please ask at one of the other houses, because they were dealing with a dying child. The man responded with, "Don't worry, she will soon be well." Rather a strange thing to say!

On returning to her daughter's bedroom, Emily's mother was astonished to find her sitting up in bed, begging her to please find that man who had come to the door and healed her. Although she ran up and down the road and enquired at every house in the street, not a single person had seen sight nor sound of him.

From that day, Emily went on to make a full recovery, and the wheelchair was put to one side.

It took a couple of years for Emily to gain her full strength, but by age 14 she was working. She went on to marry and have three daughters, and she lived out the rest of her years in good health, making it to the grand old age of 94.

Emily was always convinced that the man who saved her was an angel, and her life thenceforth was lived in thanksgiving for her gift of life. Although not actively religious, she embodied the qualities of a Godly person, being incredibly humble, and probably the most selfless person I have ever come across. She truly was a wonderful lady, who would do anything to help others.

Emily had been praying for her life that day. I too believe that her prayer was heard and an angel was sent to save her. What other conclusion can you draw?

Gordon Betteley

Fair Trade Fortnight 2024 -

This year it is from 9th September -22 September.

There will be Fair Trade stalls at the community centre on different days during the two weeks, and at the Friday coffee mornings and Sunday services at All Saints.

These will probably be on 13th and 15th September.

Please bring your money along and support this most worthy cause
More news nearer the time in the pew sheet.

The Fair Trade Team

Thanks - see you Wednesday

cicely

Sky at night

The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.



CAPPUCCINO CAKE

A very simple loaf cake with a heady hit of coffee and a light-as-anything whipped mascarpone topping.

SERVES 10-12

PREPARE 25 MINUTES

COOK 1 HOUR

**175g unsalted butter, softened,
plus extra for greasing**

5 tbsp whole milk

3 tbsp instant coffee

175g light brown soft sugar

3 large eggs

175g self-raising flour

½ tsp fine salt

TOPPING

100g mascarpone

60g icing sugar

100g double cream

10g dark chocolate, grated

* Preheat the oven to 170C/
150C fan/gas 3½. Grease a
900g (2lb) loaf tin with some
butter then line with baking
parchment. Heat the milk and
coffee in a small saucepan until

warm and stir to completely
dissolve the coffee; leave to cool.

* In a large bowl, using electric
beaters, cream the butter and
sugar for 3-4 minutes, until pale
and fluffy. Beat in the eggs one
at a time, followed by the coffee
mixture. Then beat in the flour
and salt until you have a
smooth batter. Scrape this into
the tin, smooth the top and

bake for 55-60 minutes or until
a skewer inserted at the centre
comes out clean. Cool in the tin.

* Using a hand whisk, whisk
the mascarpone and icing
sugar until combined. Add the
cream and whisk until it just
holds soft peaks (don't overbeat
or it may split). Swirl over the
top of the cake and decorate it
with grated chocolate.

Sedgley's traders of the 1940s, in Sedgley Parish Magazine

All Saints' Archive at Dudley Archives contains many past copies of All Saints' Sedgley's Parish Magazines – although, alas, the collection is by no means continuous or complete. As well as our church's history, they serve as a wonderful local resource that provides an insight into the village at various intervals in its history.

The July 1945 issue is particularly interesting, as it reveals the state of the village just before the result of the 1945 General Election of 5th July 1945 was announced. Mr Churchill was then still Prime Minister, but would shortly give way to the newly elected Clement Attlee, Leader of the Labour Party.

Most intriguing and surprising, especially given 6 years of war, was the apparent vibrant state of the village's varied trading community, from butchers, newsagents, bakers, hardware, fishmonger, clothing shops and hairdressers, as evidenced by the many display ads in the magazine.

One of the best-remembered businesses was Egginton's which once occupied a block (now demolished) that included the site of today's Tipton and Coseley Building Society, and expanded eventually to include today's ReTwisted site.

Mr Egginton served in the First War and received disfiguring injuries. However, he took over the family business and ran it till it eventually closed in the late 60s.

They were the village's pharmacists for over 80 years, but sold a range of other goods as well; and in the 50s and 60s also had a coffee lounge and toy shop on the first floor. They sold the usual toiletries, make-up, hair products, and even 'loose vinegar dispensed from a barrel'.

They also had a selection of home "knick-knacks" and ornaments, e.g. one patron recalls buying a decorated pottery barrel on a stand with 6 drinking pots for his mother as a present; and they sold Plaster of Paris already weighed up in packets which he used to make moulded figures with as a boy!

Egginton's Café was a really popular venue for all kinds of events. It's not clear when it began but it was certainly thriving by 1951. It was open till 10pm (not clear from when, but they were open by lunchtime). They did all sorts of village events from wedding receptions to birthdays, and specialised in chicken suppers.

Two businesses that were active in the 40s, but may have ceased by the 50s were Harry Edwards, butcher at 9 Bilston Street, and Compston Bakery.

Harry Edwards the butcher, if numbering is the same today as it was in 1945, is 'Sedgley Balti' now.

Compston Brothers Bakery & Mill (run Harold and Amelia Cole) used to be on what is now Wilton Close, off Setton Drive. Billy Compston is remembered delivering bread to houses in Hurst Hill.

JA Sproson Vinrace grocers advertised in the July 1945 edition of the Beacon, but at that time they were still located where Retwisted hairdressers are today. In the 1950s they moved to the Clifton annexe, which they shared with Beresford's café. Above them was Michelle's hairdressers. Vinrace specialised in freshly roasted and freshly ground coffees, as well as a variety of teas. John Wakefield ran the business; his wife (our own Ann Wakefield) was a teacher at Cotwall End School for many years.

Throughout the 1940s and 50s, two separate Cartwright businesses advertised in the church magazine. They were located on opposite sides of lower Dudley Street. One was Mrs Charlie Cartwright, a chocolate shop, located where Emporium 13 is today; and opposite them was Elizabeth Cartwright, run by her daughter May, which was a newsagent and tobacconist - where RT Knight Opticians is now.

Both businesses were part of the same larger family – Charlie Cartwright was May Cartwright’s uncle.

In July 1945, Bernard Chapman was a pastry/confectionery shop in the Bull Ring, where Sedgley Eyecare is today. Chapmans was still there in the 50s. Prior to that the shop was Kunzles Cakes and confectionery; afterwards in the 60s it was Clarkes Radio - who sold pop records/45 singles. Another very well-known and prominent retailer in the Bull Ring, there in July 1945, was Howard Hartill. He’s remembered as supplying the pigs that were roasted at All Saints’ Summer Fayres held at All Saints’ Vicarage for many years.

in July 1945 the fishing community in Sedgley seems to have been well served by John W Hartland and Son, in High Street.

They sold local kids a single hook-on nylon; and an old penny’s worth of maggots. Fishing floats were displayed on cards, and reels were ‘Intrepid’ of Redditch, ranging from the boys’ model “Black Prince” up to the top of the range “Elite”.

They were also funeral directors, and supplied vehicles for weddings, while also being an electrical appliance retailer. The Penny Farthing Arcade replaced their building. Their yard is remembered as being accessed from Bilston Street by the former Goulds.

MARTIN JONES

Can you help to ‘dry out’ Marygate House?

A retreat house on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne is in big trouble. It is very wet! After years of winter wind, gales, and endless rain, the property is suffering extensive damp.

Many thousands of people will know Marygate House, which has served visitors to the island since 1970. It is now run by a small Christian trust who wants to repair the building for future visitors, but it needs a final £20,000 to do so.

A crowdfunder has been set up for donations for the repair work. If you love Lindisfarne and would like to help, please visit: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Marygate-House.

D-Day Ringing at All Saints, Sedgley

“The Normandy landings on 6 June 1944 saw bravery and determination that turned the tide of the Second World War. With our service, we honour all those involved”.

At 6.30pm on June 6th, church and cathedral bells across the nation rang out as part of the National Bellingringing for Peace Initiative. Sedgley bell-ringers took part in this event.

We are always looking for new recruits to come and join us in celebrating these events as well as our regular Sunday Service ringing. If you are interested in finding out more about this unique and rewarding activity, please contact Mary (01902 672541)



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 Monday to Saturday. Please call the salon on **01902 882161** or pop in and see us.

The Lord of the Rings turns 70

Seventy years ago, on 21st July 1954, the first part of J R R Tolkien's epic fantasy novel *The Lord of the Rings* was published.

The Fellowship of the Ring, the first volume of a trilogy later published together, was a much more adult-oriented sequel to *The Hobbit*, published in 1937. It occupied the same ground – the fictional Middle Earth – and followed the quest of a hobbit, Frodo Baggins, to Mount Doom to destroy a powerful ring that symbolised evil in quite a subtle way.

The fantasy world was peopled not only by hobbits but by such creatures as wizards, elves and the malevolent orcs, among others.

Tolkien, who was born in Bloemfontein in 1892 but moved to England with his English parents at the age of three, became a professor of Anglo Saxon at Oxford, where he met and befriended C S Lewis. Tolkien was a convinced Roman Catholic, and it was partly as a result of this friendship that the sceptic Lewis became a Christian. They had a strong common interest in myths and ancient stories, which of course came out in their writing – though in different ways.

Tolkien, who wrote much of *The Lord of the Rings* during the Second World War, saw his book as fundamentally Christian – Catholic, in fact – but in no way an allegory (an idea he revolted strongly against). He saw myths as “splintered fragments” of a greater story and his own creative work as a kind of worship. The parallels between Christ and Frodo are obvious to many, but not explicit, and the book stands without that interpretation as a masterpiece.

It was filmed in 2001-2003 in three parts by Peter Jackson and enjoyed great success.

Don't go far!

The minister went to the bank and asked for a statement of his account, adding: “We want to know how far afield we can go for our holiday.” Handing him his statement the cashier enquired very gently: “Have you got a field at the back of your garden, sir?”

Doubts about the Christian faith? take action now!

Do you have doubts about the Christian faith? July is the month for you to decide what to do about them. This month the Church remembers Doubting Thomas, and there IS action *you* can take, either way.

You know the story: Thomas was the only apostle not present when Jesus appeared to the disciples on the evening of His resurrection. When the rejoicing disciples later told Thomas that Jesus was alive, he flatly refused to believe them. He had seen the crucifixion.

The gospel goes on to relate that a week later Jesus indeed appeared to Thomas, and invited him to put his hand into the holes in His hands and feet. Thomas was utterly overwhelmed. His response was 'My Lord and My God!' He saw, he believed.

Then Jesus said something which is relevant to us today. "Blessed are those who have *not* seen and yet have believed." (Jn 20:29) Jesus KNOWS it can be hard for you, who have never seen Him, to believe that He is indeed alive, and Lord of all.

Which is, of course, where we are today. Perhaps you really struggle with doubt. Well, there are two courses of action you can take.

Don't read the Bible. Begin to forget what Christianity teaches. Don't go to church. Don't ask God, or anyone else, for help. Your 'doubts' are perfectly honest questions, but stop looking for answers. Assume that because you have questions, there are no answers.

Look for some answers. Find out what the New Testament actually says about Jesus – by reading it! Do not be confused into thinking that you 'doubt' something which you may not even really 'know.' Pray – remember that Jesus said that those who believe without seeing are 'blessed'. So, ask God that, if He is there, please would He 'bless' you by opening your eyes to spiritual realities. Go to church.

Yes, the Christian faith demands that we take God at His word, with no evidence other than His Word. But though we believe in Jesus without seeing Him, we do NOT believe without considering Him. Faith is not blind credulity and unthinking naiveté. We have faith in the historic person of Jesus Christ.

Peter writes some real encouragement in his first epistle, “Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:8-9).

Alcohol harm is costing England billions

The harm caused by too much alcohol consumption costs the NHS £4.9 billion a year – enough to pay the salaries of almost half the nurses in England.

So warns the Institute of Alcohol Studies (IAS) in a new report. Overall, it says that alcohol harm costs England £27.4 billion a year. This includes the £14.6 billion cost of alcohol-linked crime and disorder, and £5.1 billion costs in employees missing work or being less productive.

The data also found that there has been more than a 40 per cent increase in the cost of alcohol harm since 2003. Dr Katherine Severi, chief executive of the IAS, says: “As a country we cannot afford to sit back and do nothing. The Government should develop a comprehensive alcohol strategy to tackle this rising harm.”

Since the pandemic, there has been a big escalation in alcohol deaths, with deaths rising by 33 per cent between 2019 and 2022. Dr Severi warns: “These figures show that this is a very wide social issue and we’re all paying the price for it.”

The book of Proverbs observes: “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.” (Prov 20:1)



Volunteers needed



Do you have 30 minutes to spare each week?

BEACON BEFRIENDING PROGRAMME

If you want to make a difference to someone feeling lonely in your community, we have the role for you.

The Beacon Centre offers a free befriending service, especially designed for older people who might be feeling isolated or alone.

We're looking for volunteers over 18 who can give half an hour of their time each week to make a difference.

No experience is needed and training opportunities are available. We have telephone and home visiting options and can be flexible to suit you.

Call us on 01902 880 111 or email enquiries@beaconvision.org to find out more.

www.beaconvision.org

Registered charity number: 216092



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



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

Closing date is **1st 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 5000
- ✉ Email - help@NSPCC.org.uk

Childline

- ☎ Helpline - 0800 1111
- 🌐 Web - childline.org.uk

Safe Spaces Support Service

- ☎ Helpline - 030 0303 1056
- ✉ Email - safespaces@firstlight.org.uk
- 🌐 Web - safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

125 years of Gideons and Bibles

It was 125 years ago, on 1st July 1899, that Gideons International was founded. The evangelical Christian association places free Bibles in hotel rooms, hospitals, schools, military bases and prisons around the world.

It started when two traveling salesmen from Wisconsin in the northern USA – John Nicholson of Janesville and Samuel Hill of Beloit – met in a room at the Central House Hotel in Boscobel, Wisconsin, to talk about forming an association to strengthen the faith of people they came into contact with by distributing free Bibles “through designated traffic lanes of life”.

Most people encounter Gideon Bibles through their placement in hotel rooms, and research by Gideons International shows that about 25 per cent of travellers read a Bible when there is one in their room. The Gideons are exclusively Protestant evangelical businessmen with a belief in the Bible as the inspired Word of God and Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

In 2018 the UK section of Gideons separated from Gideons International over the issue of women’s full membership, which is not allowed by the international organisation, but which received nearly 80 per cent support in a UK members’ vote. After losing a dispute about the use of the name Gideons UK, they are now known as Good News for Everyone! They have links with Gideons in Canada and Sweden who have made similar decisions.

A very small number of men in the UK still belong to Gideons International. They are known as The Gideons International in the UK, and still remain a men’s ministry.

Staying power

Hospital patients’ comment about the new minister: “He can stay longer in an hour than most people do in a week.”

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,
DY3 1SA.

🕒 Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 9am - 4pm.

🅑 Limited parking 'round the back.

🖱️ stevesgreengrocers.com

Psst. Did you know you can order online for delivery and collection?

Steve's
greengrocers 



Gold Oak
windows • doors • conservatories

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A New Lease of Life

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We Supply & Install:

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- Doors
- Conservatories
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- Roof Lanterns
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- Bi-fold Doors
- Garage Doors
- Glass Units
- Roof line
- Canopies

Why Choose Gold Oak Windows?

- Over 20 years experience
- Professional, friendly service.
- All work guaranteed.
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- Outstanding reputation for professionalism, reliability and quality workmanship.
- Majority of business gained from word of mouth.



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"ALL SAINTS"



01902 259706
07874 810219
goldoakwindows.co.uk
enquiry@goldoakwindows.co.uk



I'm sure we're all fed up with the weather, and longing for summer to start, just to have some dry days in a row would be very welcome.

The rain last week reminded me of the story of Noah and the Ark. When Noah was asked by God to build the Ark, it wasn't raining, he was asked to plan ahead.

To build a future on solid ground and to have a good friend so you can travel in pairs.

Noah was of course asked to take all his family with him and two of every living creature.

Everyone climbed aboard the Ark, not only the ones that could run and fly, but also the ones that could only move very slowly, the Snails also climbed aboard safely too.

We live in a world where everything is instant, at the touch of a button you can download the latest music.

Want to find out any information, it's there again at the touch of a button.

You can order almost anything and have it delivered within hours. We have lost the art of patience.

When I was young, I can remember getting my pocket money on a Friday and going on the bus with my bestie up to Dudley, we'd often go in Woolworths to buy the latest number one Single. Having to wait until Sunday evening to find out what was number one in the charts!!

Homework involved searching through books, often a trip to the library, I know technology is Fabulous, but I think our young ones would still learn valuable lessons from having to search, and read to find answers & information.

Sometimes when we are feeling preoccupied, or weighed down it's good too to take a little time to relax and just, crawl, float, like all those precious animals who entered the Ark.

The ones who ran inside, the snail, who was probably the very last to get on board, they were all safely gathered inside. And after rest, came out in the Sunshine on dry land.

I do hope that we will get some nice weather so we can take a little time to relax and recharge our batteries.

Canon Jan

Here's a poem found in the Friendship book 2012 written by Margaret Ingall

Sometimes life drifts slow and steady
Undemanding, all arranged,
Then we turn ~ and life's off schedule,
In an instant all is changed.
Now we walk with steps uncertain,
Simple things seem hard to do,
Shadows loom to hide the future,
Every day brings challenge new.

Now's the time to gather courage
Take a breath, let trust begin.
Help will come from those around us,
Strength will come from deep within.
None of us are left unaided,
Though we falter, none need fall.
Even though we may not know them,
Angels walk beside us all.

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



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Hole for one

A golfing priest, after having been beaten by an elderly parishioner, returned to the clubhouse somewhat depressed. “Cheer up,” said the layman. Remember, you’ll eventually be burying me some day.”

“Yes,” said the priest. “But even then, it will be your hole!”

British children rank among the world’s worst for taking exercising and eating properly

In a recent World Health Organisation (WHO) study covering 44 countries, children in England, Wales and Scotland performed badly when it came to brisk walking and daily consistent exercise. Too many youngsters are also missing breakfast, and not eating enough vegetables.

The survey looked at the exercise levels of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who are living in Europe, Central Asia and Canada. Children in England and Wales are near the bottom of the global table, below Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Norway and Croatia.

Dr Jo Inchley, from the University of Glasgow, said: “In the UK, we’re consistently low on physical activity. And by age 15, just 35 per cent of girls and 51 per cent of boys eat breakfast daily.

There are also big differences due to affluence. It was found that almost twice as many young people from high socio-economic groups are eating vegetables, for example, compared with lower socio-economic groups.

The beautiful and reassuring words of Psalm 23 are so well known, and bring comfort to people in all kinds of situations.

The idea of the Lord as our Shepherd is one who is there to guide. A shepherd doesn't drive the sheep, but gently leads them, always keeping an eye open for any danger.

I found this modern wording of that well known psalm in a lovely little book I've had for many years, written by Don Maclean, called Closer to Heaven.

The lord is my pacesetter, I shall not rush

He makes me stop for quiet intervals.

He provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity.

He leads me in ways of efficiency through calmness of mind.

And His guidance is peace.

Even though, I have a great many things to accomplish each day,

I will not fret for His all importance will keep me in balance.

He prepares refreshments and renewal in the midst of my activity.

By anointing my mind with the oils of tranquillity.

My cup of joyous energy overflows.

Truly harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours

For I shall walk at the pace of my Lord

And dwell in His house for ever.

I hope these words will bring peace and comfort, we all rush about with so much to do, and often forget to take just a little bit of time to be still, and let the Lord lead us.

Canon Jan

Close it down

The popularity of the Victorian preacher George Whitefield was such that the Privy Council debated whether steps should be taken to prevent his vast evangelical rallies. Lord Chesterfield suggested, "Make him a bishop, then you will silence him at once." – Edmund Fuller

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:

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August 15th

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October 17th

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Times Past

ARIS's BIRMINGHAM GAZETTE, Monday, July 25, 1808

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has taken Place with any other Person or Persons whomsoever.

Bilston and Sedgley Steam Mill, July 18, 1808.

THE BIRMINGHAM DAILY POST, Thursday, August 3, 1865

THE NAILERS' STRIKE

A central meeting of the "thousand" nailers on strike was held yesterday, at Sedgley, to decide whether or no the strike should be abandoned. The speakers said that they were sorry to state that their cause was less hopeful than at their previous meeting, when the delegates from Lye Waste had stated that, notwithstanding all the masters-except one- at that place had consented to pay the full twenty shillings to the pound, yet they (the workpeople) would not go to work, fearing, by doing, that they would jeopardise the cause at Sedgley. The Lye Waste men had since resumed work, and in answer to a deputation who waited upon them the preceding day, to endeavour to influence them not to work until all the masters had consented to pay the full wages, said that the Sedgley men would not remain out for them, if they instead had had the promise of the scale remuneration. It was contended that the unfaithfulness of the Lye Waste men would recoil on themselves, for if those in the Sedgley and Coseley districts were found in, at the drop through this want of firmness, not many days would elapse before the masters at the Lye Waste would give notice for the ten per cent. reduction, so as to harmonise with the wages at Sedgley. Several nailers stated that it was useless to continue the strike any longer. It was then put to the meeting whether the strike should be continued, and it was resolved almost unanimously that it should be continued.

THE IRISH TIMES, Sunday, August 30, 1914
WAR RELIEF FUND IN TORONTO
HONEY AND CIGARETTES FOR TROOPS

At 4.40p.m. yesterday the Press Bureau issued the following statement:-
A "War Relief Fund" is being organised in Toronto for the dependents of Canadian Volunteers and Reservists, and Lord Kitchener has telegraphed his good wishes for the success of the fund to its President, Mr. W. Mu-
lock.

An offer of 1,000lbs. of honey from Mrs. Robinson, of Turl's Hill House, Sedgley, has been gratefully accepted by the Army Council for the use of the troops at the front.

Ukraine: "goodness will triumph"

Church leaders in Ukraine have urged their citizens not to lose heart in face of the renewed Russian air and land assaults and the delayed arrival of fresh Western military aid.

The Primate of Ukraine's independent Orthodox Church (OCU), Metropolitan Epiphany (Dumenko) said that after years of war, every village has names of people who had "lain down their lives defending the Mother-land" – though often such lists were only "etched in the hearts of the survivors."

Metropolitan Epiphany went on: "The enemy seeks to destroy us, leaving just barren ashes and scorching heat, and sometimes it may even seem that evil is winning. But its victory is only temporary – it can never be final, because goodness, light, and life will inevitably triumph."

The Primate urged that Ukrainians should learn from the example of their women, who were often the "first teachers of faith and virtue" by placing their hope in God, and "never despairing, even when conditions seem insurmountable."



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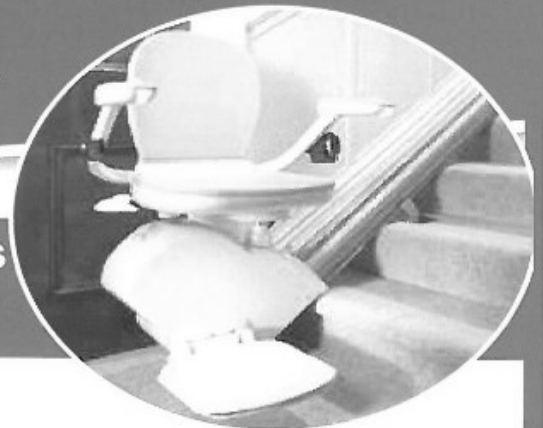
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1984 – the burning of York Minster

Forty years ago, on 9th July 1984, York Minster was struck by lightning, which set fire to the roof and destroyed the south transept.

It was the most recent of five fires that have occurred there over the years: the causes have ranged from workmen burning coals (1753) through arson using torn-up hymnbooks (1829) to an unattended candle (1840) and a tarpaulin catching fire (1971).

Although night lightning was the official explanation in 1984, some suggested that God might have been reacting to the very recent appointment as Bishop of Durham of the Rt Revd David Jenkins, a famously controversial cleric whose comments had seemed to cast doubt on the virgin birth and the Resurrection. He had been consecrated at York Minster three days earlier.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, described that idea as “ridiculous”, though some – including a few members of the fire service – felt that arson by objectors could not be ruled out. As many as 114 firefighters from over North Yorkshire were involved in tackling the blaze. Insurance cover on the Minster had just been increased by its treasury department: the damage to the south transept, with its wooden vaulted roof, amounted to £2.25 million.

York Minster is a huge landmark and tourist attraction in the city: many consider it to be one of Europe’s most impressive Gothic buildings. The glass in its famous 16th century Rose Window, which had recently been renovated, cracked into 40,000 pieces, but the new lead edges held it all together.

Queen Elizabeth attended the rededication ceremony in October 1988. This year a new exhibition called *Out of the Ashes* tells the story of the blaze and marks its anniversary.



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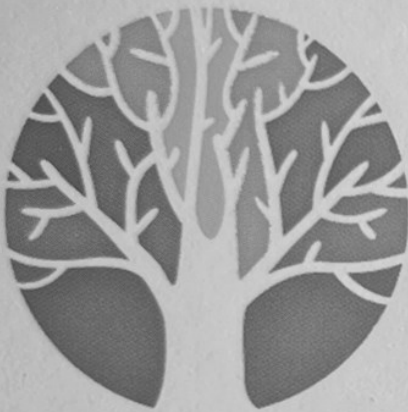
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Romans 1:20



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The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

You should not complain about doing duty in other churches when their clergy are on holiday. It is only in other churches that you will be appreciated. Beatification only comes from your own church on the day you leave – which is a way of firing a shot across the bows of your successor. I remember being greeted by a churchwarden on my first day here at St James the Least of All with the encouraging words: ‘I’ve seen six Rectors of this parish; each one was worse than the last.’ As the years have gone by, I am sure I will have entirely fulfilled his expectations.

No; when you visit another church, you will be told all the many defects of their own vicar, and whatever *you* do will be praised. Store up these memories for the day you return to your own patch – when you will then be told how outstanding your own temporary replacement has been and how congregations thrived in your absence.

Naturally, this gives you the right to make similar remarks about your own congregation in the churches you visit. Unfavourable comparisons with the bell ringers, vergers and congregational singing in your home patch to the superb standards in the church you’re temporarily serving will be much appreciated. Just make sure that the church you are staffing is sufficiently far from your own that word will not get back to your home team.

It is a mistake I made only once. After filling in for a colleague, I happened to complement the choir on the singing of the anthem. Unknown to me, a tenor was the second cousin of my organist, who received a rather embellished story that I had compared my own choir back home unfavourably with theirs. On my return the following Sunday, all the hymns were played fortissimo and at double speed and the choir in rotation dropped hymn books throughout my sermon.

Inevitably, when you staff another church, you will be told: 'It's the normal Service.' It will be *nothing of the sort*. Hymns will appear in unexpected places, Sunday schools will enter and leave (and enter again) apparently at random, objects will be brought to you to be read from, placed on the altar or blessed – just as you were about to try and find the pulpit. In any case, wherever you are standing, you will find you should have been standing somewhere else. But not to worry – most mistakes will be forgiven – provided your sermon is short.

So – enjoy your visits to other churches. And above all, make sure that your temporary replacement is so spectacularly incompetent that your own people will welcome you back with open arms on your return.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Prime Ministers

Britain had its first Prime Minister (PM) in 1721 when Sir Robert Walpole took the job; he was a Whig. In total thus far we have had 81 Prime Ministers; this excludes First Ministers and doesn't count separately an existing PM who wins the election and continues in office. If s/he loses but subsequently wins another term, each term is counted separately. We have had 56 different people as Prime Ministers.

The longest serving one was Sir Robert Walpole, who was PM for 21 years. In length he was followed by the Tory William Pitt the Younger in 1783, then by Robert Jenkinson, the Earl of Liverpool in 1812, also a Tory. These are the first three of PMs who have served over 7 years.

There were 16 PMs in the 18th century, 33 in the 19th, 25 in the 20th and so far, seven in the 21st century. Labour and the early Tories had slightly more time in office than the number of Prime Ministers *pro rata*. Rishi Sunak is the first British Asian Prime Minister.

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11am Holy Communion All Saints

6.30pm Evensong All Saints

Wednesday 10th July 10am Holy Communion St Peters

Sunday 14th July 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 July 10am Holy Communion St Peters

Sunday 21st July 9.30am Worship for All St Andrews

11am Family Service All Saints

Wednesday 24th July 10am Holy Communion St Peters

Sunday 28th July 8am Holy Communion All Saints

9.30am Worship for All St Andrews

10am Holy Communion St Peters

Wednesday 31st July 10am Holy Communion St Peters

Sunday 4th August 9.30am Holy Communion St Andrews

11am Holy Communion All Saints

6.30pm Evensong All Saints

Wednesday 7th August 10am Holy Communion St Peters

Sunday 11th August 8am Holy Communion All Saints

9.30am Worship for All St Andrews

10am Worship for All St Peters

11am Holy Communion All Saints

Wednesday 14th August 10am Holy Communion St Peters

Sunday 18th August 9.30am Worship for All St Andrews

11am Family Services All Saints

Wednesday 21st August 10am Holy Communion St Peters

Sunday 25th August 8am Holy Communion All Saints

9.30am Worship for All St Andrews

10am Holy Communion St Peters

Wednesday 28th August 10am Holy Communion St Peters