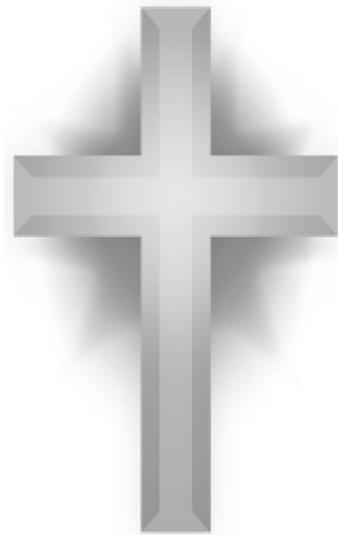
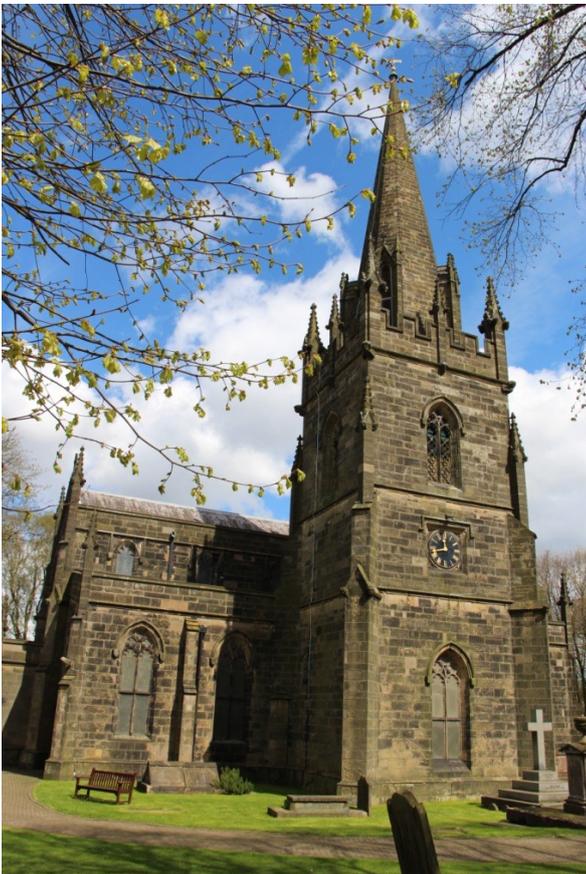
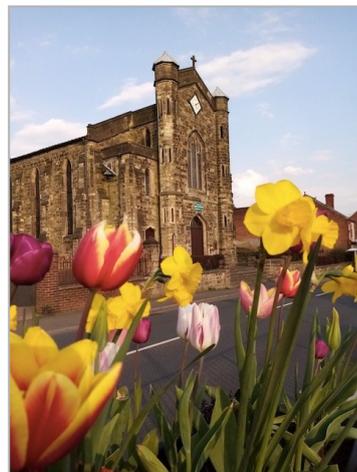


# THE BEACON

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

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Kingdom People  
love • compassion • justice • freedom

50p

July/August 2022

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Vicar	Rev Catherine Mitchell	01902 677897
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Ordinand	Claire Cox	07812 010108
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Barbara Baker	01902 882847
Pastoral ALM	Tracey Bate	01902 880727
	Sarah Parker	01902 885570
	Kath Apperley	
	Joan Sullivan	
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	David Moss	01902 893570
Parish Warden	Edward Grist	01902 682786
Treasurer	Sheila Moss	01902 893570
Children's Advocate	Suzanne Bradley	
DCC Secretary	John Powell	01902 880055
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

Vestry Clerk (Baptisms)	Chris Williams	01902 672880
Parish Wardens	Keith Tomlinson	01902 673366
	Steve Castle	07971 899072
	John Anderson	01902 677666
Treasurer	John Anderson	01902 677666
DCC Secretary	John Anderson	01902 677666
Caretaker	Amanda Bradley	07982 917832
Junior Church	Barbara Price	01902 676591
Bell Ringer	Mary Zielonka	01902 672541
Organist	Vacant	
Youth Leader	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
Brownies	Heather Churm	01902 674709
Ladies' Society	Geraldine Baker	01902 674608
Mothers' Union	Liz Williams	01902 672880
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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

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## Funerals

### Funerals in June

6 <sup>th</sup> June Leonard Percival	Gornal Wood
15 <sup>th</sup> June Eileen Elizabeth Smith	Gornal Wood
20 <sup>th</sup> June Joyce Jackson	Gornal Wood
23 <sup>rd</sup> June Alice Irene Holt	Gornal Wood

# 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 August magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

**Friday 26th August**

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

Do not send files in pdf format

WEBSITE: [www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk](http://www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk)

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## CHURCH OPENING



**Friday mornings from  
10.30am to 12.30pm**

The church is open for quiet prayer & coffee and a chat.

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## 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.

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If you wish to enquire about a wedding for 2022, please contact

**Gail Griffiths**

At the Parish Office - tel 01902 540289

# Mothers' Union

Our 'Jubilee Cream Tea' followed a weekend of celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The sandwiches, scones and cakes were made, the tables laid and the bunting up, all ready for our guests. It was a lovely afternoon enjoyed by everyone, especially after the last two years. We raised £450, which was divided between All Saints' and St Andrew's churches, and the Mothers' Union 'Jubilee Summer of Hope' Appeal. Thank you to all who helped to make this such a successful and memorable event.

~~~~~

The Diocesan Festival is on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2.30pm, at Pershore Abbey. Bishop Martin is giving the address and the Bishops of Morogoro and Peru will be at the service. If you wish to go please let me know.

~~~~~

Holy Trinity, Amblecote, are holding their Mary Sumner Day service on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August, at 11.00am, followed by a buffet lunch. It would be good if some members were able to attend as we are always made most welcome.

~~~~~

We continue to support the Women's Refuge who are now in need of new single white sheets.

~~~~~

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Iris Smith, a faithful and dedicated member of the Mothers' Union and member of St Andrew's congregation, who will be sorely missed by us all. We hold her niece, Wendy and her husband, Harry, in our prayers at this sad time.

**Dates:**

5 <sup>th</sup> July	2.00pm 'The Bright Side of Life', Joyce Bush
19 <sup>th</sup> July	7.00pm Meditation, Joan Sullivan
25 <sup>th</sup> July	2.30pm Diocesan Festival, Pershore Abbey
16 <sup>th</sup> Aug	7.00pm Charity Bike Ride, Emma Whitehouse
6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	2.00pm 'All Will Be Well', Judith Grubb

Liz Williams

## **Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

The Jubilee Celebrations we all watched over the Jubilee weekend were what we have come to expect from a nation that excels at such pageantry. The precision of the soldiers on parade at Trooping the Colour, the Red Arrows flypast, the Jubilee Concert (even though some of us didn't know all the artists performing!) and the amazing Jubilee Pageant, all made for a wonderful few days when we came together to celebrate the achievement of our Queen in her Platinum Jubilee year. Her dedication, commitment and unwavering faith has shone through her reign, through good times and bad she has been a constant in our lives.

We at All Saints' opened the church and transmitted the Thanksgiving Service, from St Paul's Cathedral, on the big screen. Over fifty people joined us to watch the service – it was almost like being in the cathedral. Of course there was tea and cakes to enjoy as well. People were asked to share their memories of Coronation Day and occasions when they had met or seen the Queen and these were displayed in the church. It was a wonderful atmosphere and so good to share this memorable event with others. Outside the church suspended between two trees in the churchyard was a magnificent display of knitted flowers from the Sedgley Local Community, in red, white and blues.

Saturday saw some of us at St Andrew's, The Straits, for more tea and cakes as well as trying to guess how many knitted flowers were displayed at their church.

The Mothers' Union Jubilee Cream Tea rounded off our local celebrations – and of course there was more cake!

Many happy memories were made over the weekend both nationally and locally, including the appearances of the Queen on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and that wonderful moment when we discovered what her Majesty keeps in her handbag!

**Liz Williams**

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## **Sea Sunday**

Over many years the 2nd Sunday of July has been kept as Sea Sunday, with a special focus on prayer for all seafarers. The Mission to Seafarers supports the work of sailors facing difficult waters, piracy, and separation from loved ones for long periods at sea. However, we can also experience storms in our own lives.

In Acts 27 we read how Paul was being taken as a prisoner to Rome, when he was caught in a storm off Crete. After 14 days they were shipwrecked on the island of Malta. Paul had warned the crew that it wasn't a safe time of year to sail: *"I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives."* But his words were ignored, and the ship sailed into a violent storm.

By the third day they *'finally gave up all hope of being saved'*. How do we face up to storms in our lives? Do we worry and panic? God doesn't necessarily prevent storms from taking place, but we can trust His purpose through them.

Paul urged the sailors to *"keep courage, because not one of you will be lost, only the ship will be destroyed"*. His confidence rested on an angelic promise: *"Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you."* Only the sovereign God, who created the wind and waves, can promise to save people from a storm. What does this mean for us in our circumstances today? *'Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come. Grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.'* (Amazing Grace: John Newton).

# Table Banking for Fair Trade

This is a scheme used to fund community projects in Africa – Kenya especially.

How it works: A group pools its savings and places them in a revolving fund – normally just placed on a table.

Members of the community can borrow to boost their businesses or meet a given need.

The money is paid back at an agreed time with agreed interest- with all repaid money going back into the fund.

This builds community capital, and means reduced reliance on predatory loan providers.

Lydia Karimi Muitari and Jenny Kajuju Rugiri met at a market in Kenya 5 years ago. They started a business selling produce together and received training in budgeting, record keeping and leadership through Traidcraft Exchange.

Now their group has over 120,000 shillings circulating through the table banking initiative and a desire to expand further. These women built a business and this shows how a small amount of entrepreneurial support helped their business to thrive. They proved how effective farming as a business can be with the right tools to succeed.

Please continue to support Fair Trade through donations: [www.traidcraftexchange.org](http://www.traidcraftexchange.org) and at our occasional stalls – next one at Macmillan coffee morning, or visit Beckminster Methodist Church on a Wednesday morning where Brenda Shuttleworth has a Fair Trade shop.

Thank you the Fair Trade Team

# Ladies' Society

Our June meeting was somewhat different, in that twenty ladies plus our youngest member, just a toddler met for a lunchtime meal at the Seven Stars pub on Gospel End Road.

The meal was most satisfying and the company happy and friendly. A good time had by all, so perhaps we could repeat the event again soon.

Hope to see everyone on 4th July, when Anne Clarke will talk on the subject of "Water, Water Everywhere".

Enjoy the sunshine,

**Anne Wakefield**

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**ALL Saints Church Hall**  
**Working for the Community**  
**Vicar Street, Sedgley.**

## Reeling in The Years

An afternoon Film Club showing films from days gone by for the elderly and their carers in Sedgley.

First showing Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 2 o'clock -  
Refreshments available and an opportunity to socialise.

**If interested, please contact Gail on 01902 540289**

## **Christian Basics: No 7: What Does the Holy Spirit Do? (Pt 2)**

Somebody once defined a football match as *'22 people on the field desperately in need of rest, watched by 50 thousand people in the stands, desperately in need of exercise!* It reminds us that church is not a spectator sport! The Holy Spirit equips us to serve God in the Church and daily life through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

These gifts are variously described as *spiritual gifts* (1 Cor. 12:1) or *grace gifts* (1 Cor. 1:7), the latter word being used in modern Greek for a birthday present! They are love gifts from God that we cannot earn or deserve, that are open to everybody. Note what Paul says, *"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good"* (1 Cor. 12:7):

*'to each one'*: the gifts are available to every Christian. Everyone will have a different *'gift-mix'*, with their own particular contribution to offer.

*'the manifestation of the Spirit'*: the gifts of the Spirit enable an invisible God to be real and visible.

As we exercise the gifts that God has given to us, in our speech or service, people will be able to say, *'God is at work here'!*

*'for the common good'*: the aim of the gifts is to build up the body of Christ and extend the kingdom of God. They are not intended to meet our own needs or reputation, but simply to serve and encourage others.

With the gifts given by God, we are able to fulfil His purposes in His world. Paul urges us to *'eagerly desire'* the gifts that God has for us (1 Cor. 12:31). How true is this for me? Any present that we are given needs unwrapping before we can enjoy it. Are we doing this with our spiritual gifts?

## **Church Mission Society refreshes its vision**

Church Mission Society has unveiled its recently “refreshed vision and purpose” for this generation, which is to make disciples of Jesus ‘at the edges of society’: the ‘edges of Church’ and the ‘edges of people’s comfort zones’. It will thus prioritise mission “at the margins and cultural fringes.”

Alastair Bateman, CEO of Church Mission Society, said mission is “no longer a Western enterprise, but a global effort.” He went on: “We are committed to moving further edge-ward in true collaboration with our global family of network partners.” This includes CMS-Africa and Asia-CMS.”

This ‘at the edges’ vision is exemplified by CMS mission partners such as Alison Giblett and Ann-Marie Wilson. Alison has lived in Ukraine since 2004, leading a team that helps people recovering from addiction. Since the invasion of Russian troops, she has chosen to remain in Ukraine to support the local community and is “praying day and night for the war to end”. She says “What right do I have to serve people in good times if I’m not willing to stand with them in the hard times?” In 2005 Ann-Marie left her job in London to set up 28 Too Many, a charity campaigning to put an end to Female Genital Mutilation [FGM]. CMS also tells the story of Jay Lilley, a self-proclaimed “working-class boy from East London” who came to faith through meeting CMS-trained pioneer Dave Harrigan at a local boxing club Dave had set up in Essex. Jay said, “I realised these were my kind of people...I just didn’t know my kind of people went to church.” Jay is now studying on CMS’s Pioneer Mission Leadership Training course for a youthwork qualification.

CMS supports hundreds of people serving in mission worldwide, from Africa to South East Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

## Trends in Persecution

Release International's 2022 *Persecution Trends* has highlighted the growing violence and discrimination against Christians in Nigeria, the Sahel, Afghanistan, India and North Korea.

In **India** religious nationalism is on the rise. Attacks against Christians are increasing, and more states are imposing anti-conversion laws – Karnataka is the latest.

In **Afghanistan** Christians are afraid of being reported by family members or neighbours, and fear violent treatment by the Taliban, who regained control in 2021. Homes are being searched and individuals are receiving threats.

In **Nigeria** Christians face attacks by Islamist extremists, bandits and Fulani militants. These include kidnappings for ransom. Churches, church leaders and Christian communities remain the primary targets. Just this Spring, college student Deborah Samuel was stoned to death and her body burned by local Muslims, after an unsubstantiated accusation of blasphemy.

Sadly, religious violence is only likely to increase in Nigeria and India in the coming months, as both countries prepare for elections.

---

## Baptism

A couple took their five-year-old young daughter to church. During the service, the minister conducted the baptism of a tiny infant. The little girl watched in wonder as he held the baby, said solemn words, then poured water over its head, and then carefully wiped it dry. Finally, she turned to her father. “Daddy, why is he brainwashing that baby?”

## **Drought in East Africa**

Extended drought is fuelling a hunger crisis in East Africa that has been called “one of the worst climate-induced emergencies in its history.” So warns the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Co-ordinator, Martin Griffiths.

Speaking recently, he said that an estimated 7.2million Ethiopians are already not getting enough to eat, and in Kenya half a million people are close to “catastrophic levels of hunger and malnutrition”. In South Sudan, floods and insecurity are pushing a further eight million people towards hunger and malnutrition.

Finn Church Aid, a Finnish NGO and a member of the global faith-based coalition Act Alliance, said that the crisis has been man-made. “The drought is because of climate change.”

Meanwhile, the war in Ukraine has only aggravated the crisis. Grain prices are up by 45 per cent, and 90 per cent of the region’s wheat imports come from Russia and Ukraine.

---

## **Seagull**

A woman went to the beach with her children. Her four-year-old son ran up to her, grabbed her hand, and led her to the shore where a dead seagull lay in the sand. “Mummy, what happened to him?” the little boy asked.

Not wanting to upset him, she said: “He died and went to heaven.” The child thought for a moment and said, “And God threw him back down?”

# Could a Mission Accompanier help your church?

from the Archdeacon of Dudley, Nikki Groarke

“We might aim for the moon and hit the fence, but at least our eyes are off the ground.”

This disarming comment is a quote from Trevor, one of our Mission Accompaniers, and it made me smile in its mix of idealism and pragmatism. The Bible is littered with exhortations to lift our eyes. The prophet Isaiah says.

*“Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.” (Is 40:26)*

Psalmists write of lifting our eyes, our very souls to God:

*“I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” (Psalm 121:1)*

*“To you, Lord, I lift up my soul.” (Psalm 25:1)*

*“To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!” (Psalm 123:1)*

It’s all about perspective, having a godly perspective on our situation, on our church life, on the challenges and opportunities before us. Trevor talked about the moon and the fence in a short video clip introducing some of the coaches we have invited to come alongside parishes in their journey towards greater health and sustainability.

We’ve appointed a fabulous group of people, skilled in facilitation and mentoring, who have a passion to see churches of different shapes and sizes become all that God created them to be. They will mainly do this by encouraging us and people in our churches to lift up our eyes, life up our souls, turn our faces to the God of the universe, and seek his help, his perspective, on what might work in our context.

This is not about people telling you what to do. If you watch the video you will hear Accompaniers talk of their desire to help discern where God is already at work, by bringing a fresh pair of eyes, providing a safe space where new ideas can be explored, where we can unlock our thinking and realise our God-given potential. They are all hope-filled encouragers, excellent skilled listeners, folk with a heart to see churches filled with people who are worshipping God, making disciples, sharing hope and transforming their communities.

When we gathered the Mission Accompaniers from across the country for a training and orientation day, I came away so excited by the possibilities, buoyed up by their energy, full of dreams about parishes across the diocese being blessed by them with a different perspective, new hope and confidence to discover their vocation and calling, unique to each church.

Can I encourage you to explore pairing up with a Mission accompanier in your church if you have not done so already. Information about how to do so is on our website. If you have, please share how it's going so that others catch the vision.

Lift up your eyes! Our God enthroned in the heavens will help and give us hope and a wider lens. His view of our churches is from the perspective of his kingdom – he longs us to join in with what he is doing as his kingdom comes on earth, as in heaven, through his people. As we focus on God, other things click into place. To you, Lord, we lift our souls!

---

## **Heaven help me**

One Sunday in church a little boy was 'acting up' during the morning worship. His parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew, but it was a losing battle. Finally, an exasperated father picked up his son and strode sternly down the aisle. Just as the church doors closed behind them, the little boy cried loudly to the congregation: "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

## A sermon in sand

If you are fortunate enough to get to the seaside this summer, then you might like to wriggle your toes in the warm sand, and consider the following:

It has been said that there are more stars in the universe than there are grains of sand on all the beaches in the world. More recently, as the estimated number of stars has increased, then even the grains of sand in all the world's deserts have been added to the comparison!

The Sun, vast though it is, is a fairly ordinary star, 93 million miles away. It is not easy to grasp that sort of a distance, but here's a measuring stick: if you were to fly in a fast passenger jet at 600 miles per hour, then it would take you about 17 hours to fly from London to Sydney; about 17 days to reach the Moon, and about 17 years to reach the Sun! As for how long it would take to fly on to the next nearest star to us – Proxima Centauri – it would take about 4.2 light years, as the distance is more than 24 trillion miles! And that is just to the next nearest star after the Sun.

How many stars are there in the Universe? Astronomers recently estimated that there are about 70,000 million, million, million stars. As you sit there you might care to pick up a couple of grains of sand. Let the first grain represent our Sun, the second grain the next nearest star to us. Then look at the whole beach and after that consider all the beaches on Earth, with every grain of sand representing a star .... then it gives some meaning to the phrase "God the Father *Almighty*, Maker of heaven and earth."

---

## Solar power

Somebody finally invented a solar-powered laundry dryer. It's called a 'clothes-line'.

## Locked in a shipping container

*In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:6-7*

Open Doors, the organisation which works with the Persecuted Church, tells of the Christian singer, Helen Berhane, who was arrested for sharing her faith in her home country of Eritrea. She spent almost three years in prison, much of this time in a metal shipping container. Because she would not deny her faith, she was beaten so severely she could not walk. Instead, during her time in the container, she wrote Christian songs, encouraged the other prisoners, and witnessed to the prison guards.

After Helen's release, she resettled in Europe and has written her prison memoirs in a small book titled, *Song of the Nightingale*. Describing her time shut inside the shipping container prison, she wrote:

“Sometimes I cannot believe that this is my life—these four metal walls, all of us corralled like cattle, the pain, the hunger, the fear. All because of my belief in a God who is risen, who charges me to share my faith with those who do not yet know Him. A God who I am forbidden to worship. I think back to a question I have been asked many times over my months in prison: ‘Is your faith worth this, Helen?’ As the guards continue on their rounds, I whisper the answer: ‘Yes.’”

---

## Spider

Whoever said “Out of sight, out of mind” never had a large spider disappear in the bedroom.

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# Mendel, the peas, and the beginning of genetics

Two hundred years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1822, Gregor Mendel was born. The Austrian/Czech friar and botanist discovered the laws of heredity and created what eventually became the science of genetics.

Born to a relatively poor but devoutly Roman Catholic farming family in what was then Moravia, in the Austrian empire, Johann Mendel (he became Gregor after he joined the Order of St Augustine) became a monk partly to relieve “perpetual anxiety about means of livelihood”, but his faith was clear and frequently expressed.

He was also a meteorologist, mathematician and teacher, but his ground-breaking experiments with pea plants between 1856 and 1863 demonstrated the action of something invisible – now called ‘genes’ – in determining the inherited traits of an organism. Although he announced his results and published them in 1866, the significance of his work was not appreciated by scientists until around 1900, when his experiments were verified – another example of the consensus of scientists failing to recognise the validity of different ideas.

He was elected Abbot in 1868, and after that his life was taken up largely by administrative duties – including a long dispute about payment of religious taxes. He died in January 1884 of chronic nephritis. Czech composer Leoš Janáček played the organ at his funeral.

Mendel’s work was introduced to Britain in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by William Bateson, the first Director of the John Innes Centre in Norwich – the first research institute devoted to Mendelian genetics in Britain. He translated Mendel’s paper from German into English, championed his work and coined the word ‘genetics’.

## **Debt leaves you so lonely**

Christians Against Poverty has warned that more people are suffering loneliness and isolation as the cost-of-living crisis pushes them ever deeper into debt.

The charity has recently reported finding clients “too worried to answer the door or answer the phone.”

Before contacting CAP for debt advice and support, 60 per cent of respondents said they had felt lonely, while about 40 per cent admitted that they had not had a meaningful conversation in the past week. Two thirds said that they had no one to turn to when they had a problem. As one client explained, CAP “definitely gave me hope that there was light at the end of the tunnel.” CAP’s helpline has experienced a significant rise in demand this year.

Along with free debt advice, CAP offers emotional support and life-skills courses to help people to connect with others and reduce their loneliness.

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## **Pay for what you get**

A man and his ten-year-old son were on a fishing trip, miles from home. At the boy’s insistence, they decided to attend the Sunday worship service at a small rural church. The father forgot to bring any cash, so he reached in his pocket and gave his son 10p to drop in the offering plate as it was passed. As they walked back to their car after the service, the father complained. “The service was too long,” he lamented. “The sermon was boring, and the singing was off key.”

Finally the boy said, “Daddy, I thought it was pretty good for 10p.”

## Reaching the deepest place on earth

One hundred years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1922, Jacques Piccard, the Swiss oceanographer and engineer, was born in Belgium. He is best known for developing deep-sea submarines, and for becoming one of the first two people to reach the Mariana Trench, the deepest point on earth.

He came from a family known for daring achievements. His father Auguste set height records in ballooning, reaching the stratosphere, and later with his son adapted the technology involved in that achievement to create the bathyscaphe for deep sea exploration. As a result, the Piccard family made both the highest flight and the deepest dive.

Jacques Piccard taught economics at the University of Geneva before leaving to concentrate on deep sea research. His revolutionary vessel, developed with his father, was bought by the US Navy for salvage and rescue.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1960, Piccard and Lt Don Walsh, a submarine officer, descended to 35,800 feet in a chasm of the Marianas Trench known as Challenger Deep. There were no on-board experiments or scientific equipment. They finally touched down in “snuff-coloured ooze” where they found, amazingly, a flat fish and a new type of shrimp.

The Piccards followed this success by developing further vessels, including tourist submarines and another exploratory vessel that followed the Gulf Stream and studied its various features. Jacques Piccard, who died in 2008, also formed the Foundation for the Study and Preservation of Seas and Lakes. His son Bertrand, with Brian Jones, made the first non-stop circumnavigation of the world by balloon in 1999 (Switzerland-Egypt, 20 days).

---

## Pleasure

Some people won't suffer in silence because that would take all the pleasure out of it.

## The beginning of Islam

Some 1400 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> July 622, the Islamic calendar began, when Muhammad and his followers migrated from Mecca to Medina to escape religious persecution (an event known as the Hejira) and established the first Muslim community.

The new religion spread quickly: Mohammad's men attacked trading caravans and in 630 an army of 10,000 forced Mecca itself to surrender. Though Islam, like Christianity, also looks back to Abraham, its military method of expansion was in marked contrast to the initial spread of Christianity.

Years in the Islamic (Hijri) calendar are designated either H or AH, which stands for the Latin term Anno Hegirae. It is a lunar calendar tied to the phases of the moon and based on astronomical observation, usually by an authorised person: the new month can only begin after a waxing crescent moon is observed shortly after sunset. For this reason, a month can begin on different days in different countries.

This lunar calendar should not be confused with the solar Hijri calendar used in Iran and Afghanistan. Turkish Muslims use an Islamic calendar which is calculated several years in advance by the Turkish Presidency of Religious Affairs.

The current Islamic year, 1443 AH, ends this July. Islamic years are not in sync with the Gregorian calendar because they fall about 11 days short of the solar year. The Hijri calendar cannot therefore be used for seasonal activities like agriculture, and most Muslim countries use the Gregorian calendar for non-religious purposes.

The Hijri calendar was established in 638 by Caliph Umar in Basrah, who complained because documents he received contained no date, which made it hard for him to know which were most recent. He decided the Muslim calendar should start when Muhammad arrived in Medina.

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\*\*\*\*\*

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\* If you have the magazine delivered or are on our newsgroup we  
\* would love to hear from you.

\* Anything from recipes, walks you have done, programmes you have  
\* watched, new hobbies you have taken up.

\* Please email me : admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk or if you do not  
\* have use of a computer please post it to me at:

\* Parish Office  
\* Ladies Walk  
\* Sedgley  
\* DY3 3UA

\* Look forward to hearing from you.

\* **Gail**

\*\*\*\*\*

**SPRINGS FOOD BANK** - Food can be delivered to Springs Food Bank on **Mondays 10am to 12 noon at: SPRINGS, Upper Gornal Methodist Church, Kent Street, Upper Gornal, DY3 1YB.**

**PLEASE NOTE**

you can **bring** donations of food to the **Parish Office** Monday to Friday between 10 and 12.30pm

If you would like to make a cash donation you can do so on the Black Country Food Bank web site at:

<https://www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk> or you could put a cash donation clearly marked through the Parish Office door.

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## THANK YOU

to all our advertisers who have continued to support us as a parish through these very difficult times and to the people who have just this month placed their first advertisement with us.

Please when looking through the magazine if you can, let us give our support to those who have so generously given their support to us.



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*From the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly observed in what he made.*

*Romans 1:20*

# TO ADVERTISE IN THIS MAGAZINE CONTACT

**Gail Griffiths**

Email: Admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

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Quarter Page £25

Half Page £40

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The magazine is distributed to 110 households in the Sedgely and Gornal area

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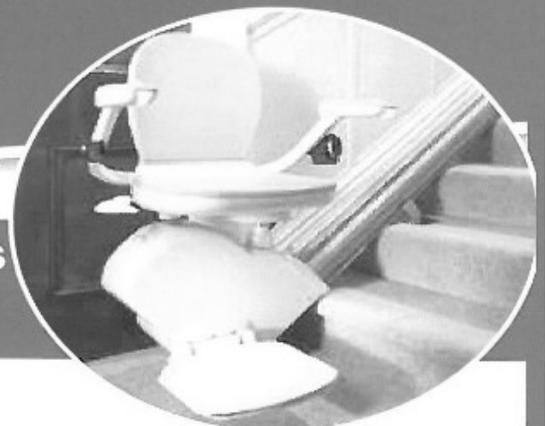
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## Josco Garden Services

Wishes to thank their Clients

Supporting All Saints Church

## Worried more about money

Four in ten of us are now more worried about our energy bills than about catching Covid.

That is the finding of a recent study by University College London (UCL).

Dr Daisy Fancourt, of UCL's Institute of Epidemiology and Healthcare and the lead author, said that as the cost-of-living crisis takes hold, "Concerns about money have been increasing, with people now more concerned about finances than about Covid-19. This suggests that new psychological stressors are becoming dominant for individuals."

The study found that there has also been a drop in happiness and life satisfaction levels, with fewer than half of adults saying they felt in control of their mental health, as compared with 54 per cent six months ago. Depression and anxiety symptoms are the highest they have been for more than a year, on a level with when the first lockdown was eased in 2020.

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## Good grief?

We are never fully prepared for the death of someone really close to us. Even if they have been thoughtful enough to leave a Will and instructions for their funeral, and although we may have anticipated the outcome of a long period of terminal illness, death itself is raw and affects us in unexpected ways. It takes years to assimilate.

Some try to take some of the sting out of death by making the funeral as cheerful as possible. 'A Celebration of Life' may be preferred to the word 'funeral' and conducted by a civil celebrant rather than a Christian minister. These bespoke ceremonies usually look back rather than forward, with the emphasis on happy memories of the dead person. Although elements from any religion or secular source may be inserted, there is little acknowledgment of the sadness left behind, or our common need of forgiveness and God's promise of life everlasting. The emphasis is on past achievements rather than future hope. After the body has been cremated or buried and relatives and friends have gone home, the slow, punishing pain of grief begins to take its toll. It takes years to work through and there are no short cuts, whether mourners are religious or not.

The American Rabbi Earl Grollman studied the impact of bereavement, and wrote:

"Grief is not a disorder, a disease, or a sign of weakness. It is an emotional, physical and spiritual necessity, the price you pay for love. The only cure for grief is to grieve."

Christians who are bereaved may chastise themselves if they feel worn down by sorrow. Do they not believe in Christ, "who has prepared a place" for those who love Him"? Yes, but thoughtful friends will remind them that Jesus Himself wept when His friend Lazarus died. Grief is normal, however strong the faith and God's care may be conveyed through the love of friends, when the direct line seems cut off. Good friends will know that mourners are thinking about their loved ones most of the time: it isn't morbid, and they should be encouraged to talk about them.

# **Stephen L Rees**

**B.D.S. U. Birm. MFGDP (UK)**

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## **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**

The Rectory  
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

I was sorry to hear that your church was broken into last week. Since your sound system rivals that of any concert hall and your projection equipment would put most cinemas to shame, it is not surprising that is what they had their sights on. Your bemusement that they never touched your library of recordings is less understandable. I would have thought that few thieves would have been much interested in renditions of 'Shine Jesus, Shine' and other such artistic gems.

It may have been an act of Christian charity to put a sign outside saying 'Thieves will be forgiven', although since they took this as an invitation to burgle your house the following evening, I hope your forgiveness still operates. Especially as they also stole your favourite guitar.

Last year, we had unwelcome visitors. The thieves must have spent several hours breaking down the church's 400-year-old oak door to get in. Shame about that. Had they bothered to try the handle, they would have discovered that we never lock the church anyway.

Since we have yet to leap forward into the 19th century, there was little to attract them. Had they removed the marble sarcophagi of the Earls of Lincombe, the money they may have made wouldn't even have paid for the subsequent hernia operations. Inevitably, there was general outrage that the poor box had been broken into – although as far as I can remember, for many years it had contained nothing more than an old three-penny piece and a button.

For many of our congregation, this represented the End of Civilisation as We Know It. Calls were made to have a permanent armed guard on

the premises, and a few even speculated about the possibility of having strategically placed land mines about the place. Mrs Beaufort offered to lend us her fierce Pekingese, and Colonel Beauchamp generously offered us his collection of man traps.

Perhaps our thieves may be forgiven their crime, but until that three-penny piece and button are returned, it will not be forgotten.

Your loving uncle,

**Eustace**

---

## **National ‘Don’t Step on a Bee Day’ – 10<sup>th</sup> July**

Bees need your help. And we need their help.

Not only do bees help provide the honey, propolis and beeswax, but they also help to keep us all fed and watered. Without bees, more than a third of everything we eat would disappear from our tables.

The majority of our honey here in the UK is imported (85%), but there are also many beekeepers on our doorstep. So why not visit a near-by farm shop or deli and enjoy the precious produce of local beekeepers for breakfast?

You can also help bees by planting wildflower seeds that will provide a food supply. Download the Great British Bee Count app created by Friends of the Earth which allows you to log the bees you spot out and about. This builds a picture of bee health and activity in the UK. Finally, build a bee hotel! Bees need somewhere to rest when they venture out on their pollen mission. You can find a step-by-step guide here: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/04/how-to-build-a-bee-hotel/>

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# **SERVICES FOR THE MONTH - AUGUST**

## **SERVICES IN AUGUST**

**WEDNESDAY 3RD AUGUST 10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS**

**SUNDAY 7TH AUGUST**

**8AM PRAYER ALL SAINTS**

**9.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER ST ANDREWS**

**10.30AM NO SERVICE ST PETERS**

**10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS**

**6.30PM COMPLINE ON ZOOM**

**WEDNESDAY 10TH AUGUST 10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS**

**SUNDAY 14TH AUGUST**

**8AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS**

**9.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER ST ANDREWS**

**10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS**

**10.30AM PRAYER ALL SAINTS**

**6.30PM COMPLINE ON ZOOM**

**WEDNESDAY 17TH AUGUST 10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS**

**SUNDAY 21ST AUGUST**

**8AM PRAYER ALL SAINTS**

**9.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER ST ANDREWS**

**10.30AM NO SERVICE ST PETERS**

**10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS**

**6.30PM COMPLINE ON ZOOM**

**WEDNESDAY 24TH AUGUST 10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS**

**SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST**

**8AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS**

**9.30AM HOLY COMMUNION ST ANDREWS**

**10.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER ST PETERS**

**10.30AM PRAYER ALL SAINTS**

**6.30PM COMPLINE ON ZOOM**

**WEDNESDAY 31ST AUGUST 10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS**

# **SERVICES FOR THE MONTH - JULY**

## **SERVICES IN JULY/AUGUST 2022**

### **SUNDAY 3 JULY**

**8AM PRAYER ALL SAINTS**

**9.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER ST ANDREWS**

**10.30AM NO SERVICE ST PETERS**

**10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS**

**6.30PM COMLINE ON ZOOM**

**WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY 10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS**

### **SUNDAY 10TH JULY**

**8AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS**

**9.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER ST ANDREWS**

**10.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER ST PETERS**

**10.30AM PRAYER ALL SAINTS**

**WEDNESDAY 13TH JULY 10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS**

### **SUNDAY 17TH JULY**

**8AM PRAYER ALL SAINTS**

**9.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER ST ANDREWS**

**10.30AM NO SERVICE ST PETERS**

**10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS**

**6.30PM COMPLINE ON ZOOM**

**WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY 10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS**

### **SUNDAY 24TH JULY**

**8AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS**

**9.30AM HOLY COMMUNION ST ANDREWS**

**10.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER ST PETERS**

**10.30AM PRAYER ALL SAINTS**

**6.30PM COMPLINE ON ZOOM**

**WEDNESDAY 27TH JULY HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS**

### **SUNDAY 31ST JULY**

**8AM PRAYER ALL SAINTS**

**10.30AM TEAM SERVICE ST PETERS**

**6.30PM COMPLINE ON ZOOM**