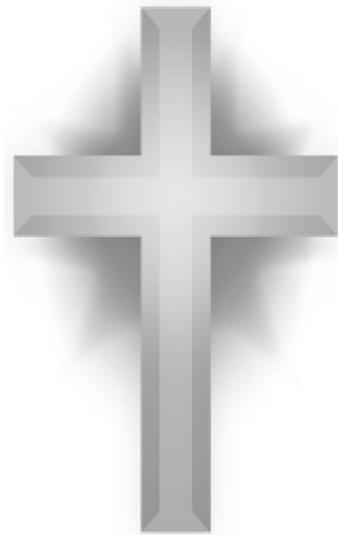
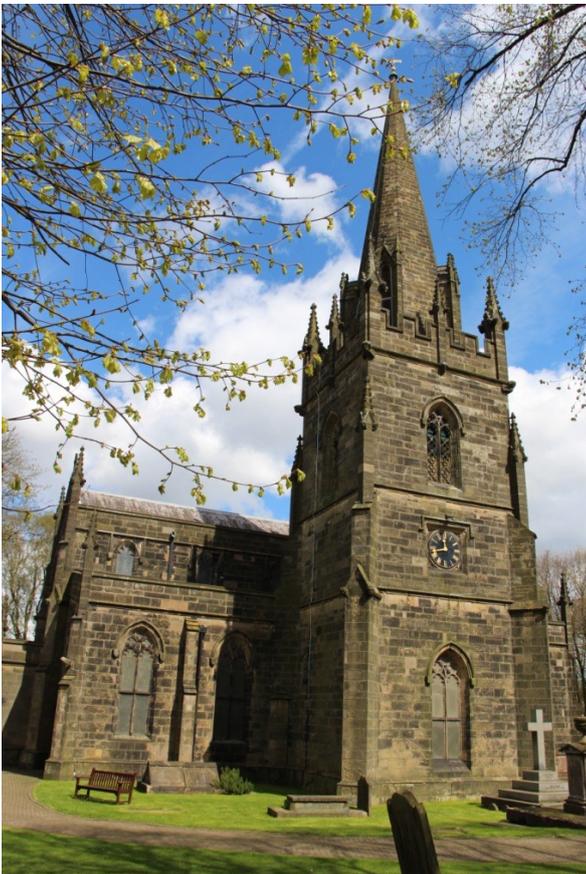
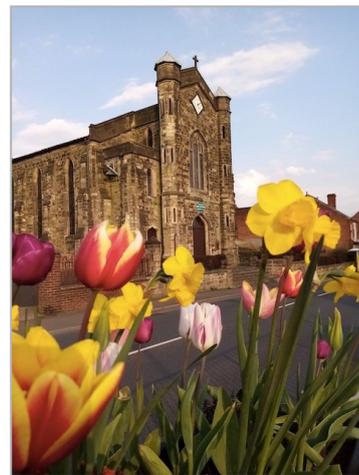


# THE BEACON

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

June 2022

## PARISH WIDE WHO'S WHO

Vicar	Rev Catherine Mitchell	01902 677897
Licensed Lay Minister	Canon Jan Humphries	01902 661275
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
	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
Ladies' Society	Geraldine Baker	01902 674608
Mothers' Union	Liz Williams	01902 672880
Rainbows	Liz Naylor	07827 629648
Web Editor	Martin Jones	01902 884461
Server/Verger	Len Millard	01902 676339
	Steve Castle	07971 899072
Noah's Ark		
Parent & Toddler Group	Linda Edwards	01902 672556

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## Funerals

### APRIL FUNERALS

4 <sup>th</sup> May	Roy Donald Lowe	Stourbridge Crematorium
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Joyce Mary Whitehouse	Gornal Wood
16 <sup>th</sup> May	William Roland Guest	All Saints
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Christopher John Robinson	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**

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Articles for the July magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

**Friday 24th June**

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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## **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**

# Message from Rev Catherine – Team Vicar

Dear friends,

When Archdeacon Nikki was at All Saints on 22 May she updated the congregation about her meeting with the PCC and DCCs on 19th May. This was the first of what will be a series of discussions over the coming months about the future of stipendiary ministry in the team.

From recent financial projections for the parish in 2022, giving in the three churches falls a long way short of what is needed to cover the costs of two clergy. Whilst the shortfall in Ministry Share can be made up by a transitional grant from the diocese this year, this is only a short-term solution.

If the PCC eventually conclude that the team will only be able to meet the cost of one stipend in the future, our Ministry Share request will be reduced accordingly, but significant changes will be required in service patterns with only one priest across the three congregations.

Archdeacon Nikki and Area Dean, David Hoskin, will be helping the PCC and DCCs explore over the coming months various options about how the churches might be encouraged and enabled to grow.

In the meantime, Nikki and David have met with me to make plans for reducing the number of services across the team from July, and this will be communicated in the next couple of weeks.

Nikki explained that this has happened in many other teams and multi-parish benefices across the diocese over recent years, and whilst it is hard, it is a necessary adjustment when congregations are no longer able to cover the cost of ministry due to shrinking congregations and stretched finances.

It will be a long process to agree the eventual way forward, with much facilitated discussion, but the service changes will need to happen swiftly as I cannot be in two places at once, and other clergy are similarly stretched.

A copy of the financial analysis is available on request to Gail in the parish office. Please contact Gail by email [admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk](mailto:admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk) or phone 01902 540289

The next few months, as a parish, we will experience quite a bit of change as we try and navigate to a new “normal”. For some, change is exciting, but for others they feel very uncomfortable, some will be fearful for the future and I recognise it will be hard.

What do you do when life is challenging and you’re feeling fearful? One way to gain help and comfort when we find ourselves in challenging times is to seek God’s help in scripture; one passage that is helpful at times like these is Isaiah 41:10, which says “do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”

We are reminded in this passage that God will always be with us, encouraging us not to be fearful, when times get tough, and that He will uphold us allowing us to stand firm.

As we walk this journey together, will you allow God to give you strength? Will you allow yourself to have faith in Him?

With every blessing,

**Rev Catherine**

## **A Message from Archdeacon Nikki**

(Following Archdeacon Nikki's announcement on 22<sup>nd</sup> May the following message was announced in All Saints at the 8:00am and St Andrews at the 9:30am Team Service)

### **New Service Pattern across the Gornal and Sedgley Team Ministry**

I have met with Catherine and David Hoskin, Area Dean, as agreed, to plan a sustainable service pattern with only one stipendiary priest in the team, ministering alongside one LLM and one ALM. This pattern is in line with other team ministries across the diocese, is appropriate for the size of congregations, and recognises that the churches are part of a team and need to function as such. It will be discussed with the PCC and DCCs at a meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July, but will take effect from the beginning of July for a trial period which can be reviewed after six months.

## **The trial pattern will be:**

**For All Saints** Holy Communion at 10.30 on first and third Sunday

Holy Communion at 8.00 on second and fourth Sunday

Café Church at 4.00 on fourth Sunday

**For St Peter's** Holy Communion at 10.30 on second Sunday

Service of the Word at 10.30 on fourth Sunday

Holy Communion at 10.00 each Wednesday

**For St Andrew's** Holy Communion at 9.30 on fourth Sunday

Service of the Word at 9.30 on first, second and third Sundays

This means there will be a Eucharist each week, either on a Sunday or Wednesday, at both St Peter's and All Saints. On the Sundays when there is no service in the church you most usually attend, you are encouraged to worship in one of the other team services. Additional lay-led services could be introduced in the future if other church members are willing to train as ALM Worship Leaders. Catherine will be responsible for inviting other deanery clergy and those with PTO to cover Eucharistic services when she is away. Those clergy are spread thinly so it is not permitted to ask them to cover any additional services not in this plan. It will be an adjustment for St Peter's and All Saints to have fortnightly rather than weekly worship at 10.30, but is necessary in the new situation to ensure the well-being of your priest, LLM and ALM. On the occasional fifth Sundays in the year, a special team service will be arranged.

Nikki Groarke

Archdeacon of Dudley

25 May 2022

<b>Week</b>	<b>8:00am</b> <b>All Saints</b>	<b>9:30am</b> <b>St Andrews</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>No service</b>	Worship For All	<b>All Saints</b> Communion	<b>All Saints</b> Café Church	<b>No Service</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>	Communion	Worship For All	<b>St Peters</b> Communion	<b>No service</b>	Compline <b>Zoom</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>No Service</b>	Worship For All	<b>All Saints</b> Communion	<b>No service</b>	Compline <b>Zoom</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	Communion	Communion	<b>St Peters</b> Worship For All	<b>No service</b>	Compline <b>Zoom</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>No Service</b>	<b>Team Service TBA</b>		<b>No Service</b>	Compline <b>Zoom</b>

## **100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

Len Millard will be 100 years old on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The dedication that Len has given to All Saints over so many years is immeasurable. Len would have celebrated his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday the year Queen Elizabeth succeeded to the throne. Len was a dedicated head server for many years and very loyal to All Saints. After his retirement Len became a vergers in his later years, which we are all very thankful for.

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## **Mothers' Union**

Thank you to Revd. Catherine who took our Communion service in May. This was a midday service, followed by lunch and fellowship.

A few of us attended our Kingswinford Area Festival at St Mark's, Pensnett. The theme of the service was 'Walking Together in Faith' and our Chaplain, Mother Victoria, gave an inspiring address. There was an enrolment and presentation of Long Service Awards, one of whom was Judith Owen who has been a member for 35 years. The service has been postponed twice, due to the pandemic, so it was good to meet up in person.

We had our very own Jane Macdonald at our evening meeting last month when Judy Clements shared memories of her and her friend Sylvia's cruise, which began at Barcelona.

On arriving on board the ship they found there had been a mix up with their luggage and the cases in their cabin were not theirs! Being assured their cases would be located and waiting for them at Monte Carlo they had dinner that evening in their cabin!

Next morning they went into Barcelona. As you walk around the city you notice that the buildings on the street corners have a flat edge, known as 'chamfered corners'. This means that the crossroads have a more open feel and there is room on the streets for terraces.

They visited the La Sagrada Familia Basilica, an amazing building and one of the architect's, Antoni Gaudi, most famous works. The first stone of the Basilica was laid in 1882 and 140 years later the construction is still not complete. Judy told us that they are hopeful it will be finished by 2026!

As promised when they arrived at Monti Carlo there was a taxi on the dock side with their cases.

They went to Rome, visiting St Peter's Basilica, in Vatican City, and the Sistine Chapel with its wonderful frescos including 'The Last Judgement' by Michelangelo. Judy said due to this being a major tourist attraction it was very crowded and, for her, there was little religious atmosphere. She much preferred the peace and serenity of the small village churches.

Palm Sunday was spent in the village of Soller, in Majorca. Judy and Sylvia witnessed a procession from the main square around the narrow streets with people carrying palm and olive branches, acting out the first Palm Sunday - a wonderfully moving sight.

Other places visited included Lisbon, the walled town of Lucca in Tuscany, and Cadiz where they enjoyed a Flamenco Evening.

This is just a taster of what Judy and Sylvia experienced on their cruise. It was lovely to share in the memories and we look forward to the next one.

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I took the items collected by our branch and members of our congregation, and St James, Lower Gornal, branch, to the Refuge after Easter. They were thrilled with the collection and sent the 'Thank You' below.

**'Thank you so much for the kind donations of  
'Welcome Packs', towels and essential items.  
It means so much  
From everyone at New Beginnings'**

~~~~~

## **Awareness of Modern Day Slavery**

Joyce Bush writes:

‘Mary Sumner was in her 80’s when she campaigned about the trafficking of white girls and successfully fought hard for the white slavery Abolition Bill of 1912. Job done we thought at the time, but not so! Here we are 100 years later with major issues of Modern Slavery around us. If we wish to follow in her footsteps we cannot ignore this situation, for it will not go away.

We thought it had been abolished and we cannot comprehend that it is here in the UK IN 2022.

The President and Trustees of the Mothers’ Union in Worcester Diocese are inviting all members to help raise awareness of Modern Day Slavery in ‘our small corners’.

We plan to have displays of colourful knitted or crochet chains across the Diocese in the two weeks, 10<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> October, which includes Anti-Slavery Day on 18<sup>th</sup> October’.

This is something for anyone to support, you do not have to be a member of the Mothers’ Union.

**Patterns are available from Liz Williams.**

### **Dates:**

- |                       |        |  |
|-----------------------|--------|--|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> June  | 2.00pm | ‘Jubilee Cream Tea’, in the Church Hall        |
|                       |        | Tickets are £6                                 |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> June | 7.00pm | ‘Flog It’ – Four Lasses and a Lad, Anne Clarke |
| 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              |

**Afternoon meetings are in All Saints’ Church Hall &  
Evening meetings are in All Saints’ Church  
All are welcome**

**Liz Williams**

## **Sedgley hymn (based on Psalm 121)**

tune Corve Dale (8.7.8.7 D) or Austria.(Glorious things of thee)

Blue remembered hills of Shropshire  
When we lift our eyes, we see  
on the distant western skyline,  
Wrekin, Wenlock Edge and Clee.  
But, in life, when we need comfort,  
distant hills cannot afford  
that support our spirit yearns for  
which comes only from our Lord.

For He neither sleeps nor slumbers,  
He that holds us in his care.  
He preserves us from all evil  
and defends us from despair.  
He who carved the earth with rivers  
into Shropshire's hills and dales,  
stands beside us through life's problems  
His close comfort never fails.

God himself will be our keeper  
Our defence on our right hand  
Throughout all persistent troubles  
His defence will always stand.  
He will guard our souls from evil  
He will guide us evermore  
Through the transient ills of this world  
onto that eternal shore.

# The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

This month we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. She is the longest reigning monarch in British history. Up until recently she attended church every week and still did a full week's work at the age of 96!

It is her commitment to serving God and the nation which stands out in her life. Even before she became Queen, she made a promise, which she has kept for over 75 years: *'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service'* (21<sup>st</sup> birthday broadcast, 21 April 1947).

What is the secret of the Queen's consistency of character and service? In 2002 she said this: *"I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God."* These are wise words from somebody who draws her strength from the Christian Faith and can inspire all of us who want to make our lives count!

The Queen has been an example of joyful, wise, and generous service on behalf of others all her life. Six months before her coronation she asked the nation and Commonwealth to *"pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life."* Paul urges us to pray for all in authority, *"that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and*

---

## Techie trouble

The vicar had technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he muttered: "There's something wrong with the microphone."

Not hearing this, the congregation responded: "And also with you."

# Christian Basics No 6: What Does the Holy Spirit Do? (Pt I)

As we celebrate Pentecost this month, it's appropriate to ask the question: what does the Holy Spirit do in our lives? Everybody who has committed their life to Christ possesses the Holy Spirit, *'if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.'* (Romans 8:9). It is the Spirit who brings us new birth into the family of God.

The Spirit assures us of God's love and acceptance, despite our fears, doubts or failures. As adopted children we can address God as our father: *"God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'"* (Galatians 4: 6). By using the same word used by Jesus, we can grow in intimacy with our Father and pray to Him, especially when we struggle to find the right words.

The Holy Spirit is committed to producing a family likeness in those who follow Christ. This Jesus likeness enables us to live as Jesus would in our place, ie: work, family, time, interests etc. Paul describes this as the fruit of the Spirit: *'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'* (Galatians 5:22,23). He talks about fruit not fruits! We can't pick and choose, as they come as a total package to be developed over a lifetime!

The Spirit is committed to producing new desires for God: reading the Bible and praying, forgiving others, meeting with other Christians and sharing our faith. He will also give us the motivation to overcome wrong habits, attitudes or lifestyle in our lives.

*'Let the church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him'* (Andrew Murray).

## Father's Day

Fans of the popular *Star Wars* films were surprised when Darth Vader said to Luke Skywalker "I am your father." This unexpected disclosure paved the way for future surprises in the episodes that followed.

Many times, Jesus surprised His hearers with parables that had unexpected twists and turns. No doubt He astonished the disciples when He first called God 'Father' and went on to instruct them to pray saying "Our Father in heaven...". No one had called God 'Father' before! Shortly before His arrest, trial and crucifixion, Jesus talked to His disciples about God the Father. He said: "In my Father's house are many rooms." This prompted Philip to ask: "Show us the Father, that is all we need." Jesus replied: "Whoever has seen Me *has* seen the Father."

Jesus knew this concept would be hard to grasp and so had to frequently speak about God as His Father. For three years the disciples had listened to profound teaching and witnessed miracles. They knew Jesus was different, but as His ministry drew to a close they were learning more about the special relationship that God had with Jesus.

On 19<sup>th</sup> June it will be Father's Day. This is an occasion to remember the role our dads are playing now or have played in our lives. Hopefully, we have good memories and recall times of loving care they showed to us. Unfortunately, some people do not know their fathers, or they have been absent for long periods or may be neglectful, deceitful, or abusive. Sadly, some children and adults would rather not remember their fathers, having suffered some trauma or family breakdown.

It is good to know that God is not like this. Jesus came to reveal God as our Heavenly Father, who is loving, compassionate, merciful, forgiving, and caring. God is the model father who knows what is good for us and wants the best for us.

So, Father's Day can be a reminder that we are God's children, and that we can possess the blessings He has kept for us. In the story of our lives God has revealed Himself in a surprising way. He says to each one of us 'I am your Father'. Now that is something to celebrate!

# **Scripture translations completed for 10 per cent of the world's population in 2021**

Bible Societies across the world completed Scripture translations in 90 languages last year used by 794 million people – just over 10 per cent of the world's population.

Despite a second year of disruption caused by Covid, 48 language groups – a total of 11 million people – received first Scripture translations, meaning that they were not previously available in those languages. New or revised translations were completed in languages used by 783 million people. These provide Scripture access to language communities whose needs are no longer met by previous translations.

Meanwhile, work is progressing on the translation of Scriptures in countries including Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Eswatini, Gabon, Mali, Nigeria, The Gambia and Togo.

Thanks to the efforts of Bible Societies and other Bible translation agencies, at the start of 2022 the full Bible is available in 719 languages, spoken by 5.8 billion people. Around 70 per cent of these were translated by Bible Societies.

Yet, more than half of the world's languages, used by 219 million people, still have NO Scripture translations at all. And 1.5 billion people do not have the full Bible in their heart language.

Bible Society hopes to complete 1,200 Scripture translations by 2038. Of those, 880 will be first translations, and another 320 are new or revised translations.

# Churches embark on historic friendship journey

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has been invited to welcome an historic Declaration of Friendship with the Catholic Church in Scotland that offers ‘a decisive and irrevocable statement of our friendship with one another, based on our shared faith in Christ.’

The culmination of more than 100 years of ecumenical relationship building between the two Churches, the Declaration of Friendship was presented to the General Assembly on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May. It had already been approved by the Bishops Conference of the Catholic Church in Scotland.

The declaration says: “We recognise each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, and we wish to express our friendship and respect for one another as fellow Christians. Since the World Missionary Conference (Edinburgh, 1910), and the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) much has been done ecumenically to repair what was broken and to restore mutual respect and friendship.

“A great deal has been achieved spiritually, practically and affectively, through joint prayer among our parishes, various joint commissions, and the growing knowledge and appreciation of each other as Christian friends and fellow pilgrims.”

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## Sermon

A young curate who had just been ordained stepped in to take the sermon at very short notice, because the vicar was ill. At the end of the sermon, he explained apologetically: “At such short notice I’m afraid I just had to rely on the Holy Spirit. Next week I hope to do better.”

## **Cost of living crisis: your support is even more urgently needed**

This month, millions of households in the UK will be pushed into fuel poverty as the higher cost of energy really begins to bite.

So warns CAP (Christians Against Poverty). “Now more than ever, people in financial crisis need urgent help.” CAP uses the example of Jayne, a single mum who fell into debt after her dad died. Jayne tells how her life became an endless cycle of debt, misery and fear.

In desperation, Jayne phoned CAP for help. A few months later, she is on her way to becoming debt-free, and meanwhile she has become a Christian, joined a local church, and has developed money skills for life. As CAP explains, this means that Jayne is now far better prepared to withstand the growing cost of living crisis this autumn.

If you would like to help those in need, or if you need help yourself, please go to: <https://capuk.org>

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### **Hymns for Laodicea**

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

Precious Lord, Take My Finger

Sit Up, Sit up for Jesus

Spirit of the Living God, Fall Somewhere Near Me

Take My Life and Let Me Be

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## A time to stand up for truth?

An important exhibition is running at the British Library in London until August 21<sup>st</sup>. It's an exhibition taking a timely look at the news and the role it plays in our society. I'd love many Christians to visit it, *writes the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest and a former communications director for the C of E.*

It comes as 'the news' has never been more contentious and, sadly, the public's trust in journalists – in the UK and around the world – remains low. Yet the increasing persecution of journalists by totalitarian states across the globe shows the importance of a free press to the flourishing of democracy.

As Christians, we have a special calling to stand up for truth and, I believe, to support journalists and news organisations seeking to communicate that truth – often in the face of violence, threats and murder.

I've been involved in a project, based in the Anglican Diocese of St Albans, north of London, for the past several years, looking at post-truth, fake news and disinformation. We have brought together a wide group of people to examine issues around post-truth, and to help to formulate a Christian response.

Key findings include the importance of keeping conversations going including with people with whom we disagree, being willing to ask questions about what we are being told, and to refuse to succumb to cynicism. Most importantly, to stand for truth in a climate of mounting disinformation.

So I welcome the exhibition, 'Breaking the News', the British Library's first major exhibition to spotlight the role news plays in our society. The exhibition aims to prompt big questions including:

How do your opinions and beliefs influence the news you choose?  
When does news become propaganda?  
Why do we devour crime stories and sensationalism?  
Who decides which stories to suppress and which to spotlight?

At a time when the global trustworthiness of journalists ranks at just 23 per cent – with only bankers, business leaders, advertisers, government ministers and politicians ranking beneath them – it's time for Christians and all people of faith and goodwill to look at how we receive our news, and how we view it.

Making a visit to this high-profile exhibition could be the first step in re-evaluating the importance of reliable news sources and the role Christians could play in supporting diverse and trustworthy media.

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## **Miscellaneous observations on life**

One who boasts of being a self-made person relieves the Lord of a lot of responsibility.

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.

Love is grand; divorce is a hundred grand.

I had a ploughman's lunch the other day. He wasn't very happy about it.

A gesticulation is any movement made by a foreigner.

As long as there are exams, there will be prayer in schools.

Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.

## **When slavery became illegal**

It was 250 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1772, that the Court of King's Bench ruled that slavery was illegal in England and Wales. It remained legal in British Overseas Territories and colonies until 1833.

In the 1772 case of *Somerset v Stewart*, William Murray, Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, made a very specific ruling that it was illegal for a particular slave, James Somerset, to be transported back to Virginia, where he had been bought by his master, Charles Stewart.

Somerset had been baptised in England the previous year, and his godparents obtained a writ of habeas corpus to prevent his kidnapping and transportation, and the judge ruled, rather reluctantly in view of its possible implications, that such forcible transportation was illegal.

This was not of itself a declaration that slavery in Great Britain was illegal, but it was reported as such in the press, both here and abroad, and widely celebrated by those of African descent, as well as many others. However, it was not generally enforced, even in the narrower sense.

The legal status of African slaves in Britain and its colonies in fact remained unclear until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807 made the slave trade illegal; and in August 1833 the passing of the Slavery Abolition Act meant that almost all black men, women and children held as slaves in the British Empire – around 800,000 people in all – were given their freedom.

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## **The new marriage laws**

*Marriage should be honoured by all. Hebrews 13:4*

A new Act of Parliament has introduced no fault divorce to England and Wales. Now one or both parties to a marriage can get a divorce without the need to blame the other person.

It was introduced because there were a very small number of marriages where one person could stop the other getting a divorce, even though the relationship was at an end. A man or woman had to *show* that the marriage had irretrievably broken down, as demonstrated by the other's adultery, behaviour or they lived apart for a period of at least two years. But making such an accusation of desertion, behaving badly or having a sexual relationship outside marriage would often stoke up bitterness, and make it difficult to agree on important issues about children or money. Some people have argued that no fault divorce makes marriage less important or removes personal responsibility. Sadly, the numbers of people getting married are falling and the divorce rate is increasing. Fewer choose to marry in church.

Divorce used to be the privilege of rich people, and even then was granted only for a few reasons. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was easier legally for a man to get a divorce than for a woman to get one. In the 1970s a new paper-based procedure came in, whereby parties did not have to physically go to court hearing a divorce. Now divorces are done on-line on a government website.

The new Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 removes blame, but still ensures there is a minimum period of 20 weeks between the start of proceedings and when individuals may apply for a conditional order of divorce. This allows a time to reflect and discuss problems, and where reconciliation is not possible, to agree important questions such as those involving children, finance and property.

Christians will have a different understanding of marriage, and to many people divorce will always be a painful and stressful process, regardless of the law. As always this is a very simple comment on a complex subject. Always get professional advice before taking any steps. There are local and national organisations which offer guidance on reconciliation (getting back together) and mediation (staying apart but sorting out important issues).

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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:

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\* Look forward to hearing from you.

\* **Gail**

\*\*\*\*\*  
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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.

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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*

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## **From the Church Wardens**

### **Worth Sides.**

At the end of last year Worth Sides retired as All Saints Sexton. Worth and his wife had been regulars in the congregation for many years and Worth maintained the gardens for approximately fifteen years. Since being appointed Sexton some years ago Worth gave his services free of charge.

It is important that we place on record our appreciation for the hard work and effort Worth has afforded to All Saints Church. We wish Worth a happy and long retirement. Worth has been replaced by Paul Morris on a contract basis.

### **Steve Castle.**

Our newly appointed Church Warden Steve Castle will be completing his 50<sup>th</sup> Official Half Marathon on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

Steve will be running with his youngest son Harry at Richmond Park in London.

Back in the eighties and early nineties Steve also ran fourteen full Marathons with a best time of 3 Hours and 1 minute .

Steve s eldest son Tom ran his first Half Marathon on the 14<sup>th</sup> May in Italy.

It is clearly a family bug which I am sure was influenced by the late Margaret Castle who loved her fitness.



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## LADIES SOCIETY REMINDER

The Ladies Society meal is on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June at the Seven Stars, Gospel End Road. The meal is booked for 12.30pm and the pub opens at 12pm.

## 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

Len Millard will be 100 years old on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Lens family are holding a **SURPRISE** party for family and friends in our church hall, but would love for church member's from across the parish to pop in for tea and cakes to celebrate such a special birthday. The dedication that Len has given to All Saints over so many years is immeasurable. Len would have celebrated his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday the year Queen Elizabeth succeeded to the throne. The celebration is in All Saints church hall between 3pm and 6pm on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June, you are all most welcome.

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## How to discourage mosquitoes

Summer brings mosquitoes. We avoid them by using sprays, zappers or citronella candles. But now scientists may have found another way to discourage these blood-sucking pests.

A recent study in *Nature Communication* suggests that we might also consider not wearing red clothes. It seems that mosquitoes see only certain wavelengths of light, and therefore only certain colours are seen to be a source of food. And red is their favourite colour! Fortunately, white, green, purple or blue clothes go unnoticed by the hungry bugs. So, it may be helpful this summer to cover your skin with cooler shades of clothes. But don't expect miracles, because unfortunately, mosquitos are also attracted by our breath, our sweat and even the temperature of our skin. Which, sadly, puts you back to square one.

---

## Some simple tricks to save energy

The on-going rise in energy costs is eye-watering. Here are some well-proven ways to save money:

Always turn off the lights when you leave a room. Forget about maintaining an 'ambience' in your home.

Turn down your thermostat by at least a degree. Or two. Or three? Get some LED bulbs – they are six times more efficient, last much longer, and use 90 per cent less energy than old-style bulbs.

Shower rather than bath. Don't worry about a bit of dirt on your children. It can strengthen their immune systems and help prevent them from becoming allergic to everything.

Don't boil the kettle all the time – it eats up about six per cent of all your electricity per year. Why not consider making a pot rather than a mug, so that you drink as much overall, but less often?

Make a draught excluder – you know, the ones that look like sausage dogs. Don't turn up the heat to combat a draught, fix the draught.

Keep doors closed. If you don't need to heat your WHOLE house, don't.

Put some more clothes on. We all know people who like to wear only tee-shirts at home, even in winter. If they belong to your family, get them to put on a jumper, cuddle the dog, wrap up in a blanket, or run up and down the stairs, not turn up the heating.

Set your washing machine at 30. Washing at 30 rather than 40 degrees can reduce your energy consumption by 60 per cent per cycle, according to the energy experts.

Use your electric clothes dryer less. It can account for five per cent of all household electricity. Far cheaper to buy a washing line!

Use your oven only when you can fill it up. Never cook just one thing at a time. And when you are done, leave the oven door open to help heat the house.

All of these are small steps, but together they could make a big difference this year.

---

## **Are you a Velcro person or a Teflon person?**

How much daily stress do you allow to stick to you? When it comes to coping with stress, David Almeida, a professor of human development at Pennsylvania State University, says that people can be divided into two categories.

'Velcro' people allow the stressful moment to stay with them, leaving them irritable and frustrated. 'Teflon' people see the moment of stress for what it is, but then let it slide away from them, leaving no effect on their mood.

In a ten-year study, Almeida found that people who become easily upset in the moment and who then dwell on their negative feelings and resentment are much more likely to suffer subsequent health problems such as pain, arthritis, cardiovascular complications, and mental health issues.

# **Stephen L Rees**

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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,  
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The Rectory  
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

This has been an unusual month: we have moved from hysterical excitement to deep disappointment within the space of days.

For many years, our vestry has displayed an oil painting generously donated by the Dowager Duchess of Stansby – given to us, I suspect, because her son, the tenth Duke, would not allow it in his house. It was supposed to depict Daniel in the lions' den, although I always thought it looked more like a prospective adopter visiting a dog rescue centre. The Dowager was less than pleased when it wasn't made the centrepiece in the sanctuary, but we managed to persuade her that her exceptional work of art would be safer from theft if locked away.

Then – our cleaner happened to knock it off the wall. If it had landed in her bucket of disinfectant and been totally destroyed, it would have been a sadness I suspect I could have learned to bear. But something more interesting happened. Some of the Dowager's oil was chipped off – to reveal a painting underneath of what looked like a cherub.

The cleaner told the churchwarden, who instructed her not to tell anyone about the find. This inevitably meant that, within the hour, the entire parish knew of the discovery of what had already been transformed into a priceless pre-Raphaelite treasure. Our churchwarden has yet to learn the fact that if you tell someone something in complete confidence, they assume it means they can only tell one other person at a time.

By evening, mutually opposed camps had already formed. Miss Timmins wanted the treasure to be placed in a side chapel, as a shrine, preferably with candles permanently burning beside it. She envisaged St James the Least of All becoming a place of pilgrimage, and that this yet-to-be revealed cherub may work miracles of healing.

She was already asking for opinions about where the car park should be built to cater for the thousands of tourists who would soon be flocking here. Another group wanted to sell it as soon as possible and use the money to repair our church tower. A third group insisted the fortune it would raise be given to African missionaries. Meanwhile, the tenth Duke was consulting his solicitors to see how he might get the canvas back to his castle.

We compromised by getting the thing X-rayed, to see what work of art lay underneath. It turned out to be by a local artist who had painted an advert for the village pharmacist to sell his own brand of gripe water.

Shrines, towers and good deeds were quietly forgotten and the last we heard of the tenth Duke was that he was consulting a second set of solicitors to see if he can get out of paying the first set for the work that they had done to retrieve the painting.

Your loving uncle,

**Eustace**

---

## **Is your house welcoming to swifts?**

These boomerang-shaped little birds have recently been added to the list of endangered birds because they have a severe housing crisis: modern homes do not have nooks and crannies for them to nest in. Swifts are in serious decline: they have faced a 58 per cent drop in their numbers since 1995.

Because modern homes are less likely to have spaces between bricks and in the eaves, the RSPB is now pushing for special 'swift bricks', that contain small tunnels and nesting space, to be installed in new-build homes.

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# **SERVICES FOR THE MONTH - JUNE**

**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS 10AM**

**SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**8AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS**

**9.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER ST ANDREWS**

**10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS**

**10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS**

**6.30PM COMPLINE ON ZOOM**

**WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS 10AM**

**SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**8AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS**

**9.30AM HOLY COMMUNION ST ANDREWS**

**10.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER ST PETERS**

**10.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER ALL SAINTS**

**4PM CAFÉ CHURCH ALL SAINTS**

**WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS 10AM**

**SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**8AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS**

**10.30AM TEAM SERVICE ST PETERS**

**6.30PM COMPLINE ON ZOOM**

**WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS 10AM**

**SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**8AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS**

**9.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER ST ANDREWS**

**10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS**

**10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SANTS**

**6.30PM COMPLINE ON ZOOM**

**WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS 10AM**