# THE

# BEACON

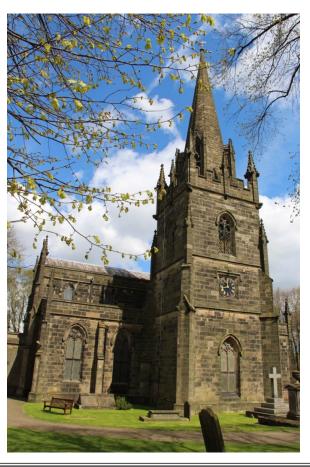
THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS, SEDGLEY ST. ANDREW'S THE STRAITS & ST. PETERS UPPER GORNAL

Registered Charity Number 1179471













March 2024

# PARISH WIDE WHO's WHO

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Licensed Lay Minster	Canon Jan Humphries	01902 661275
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Pastoral ALM	Tracey Bate	01902 880727
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	Kath Apperley Joan Sullivan	01902 661094
Worship ALM	Suzanne Bradley	01902 880055
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Youth ALM	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
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# All Saints Who's Who

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

# **Funerals in February**

7<sup>th</sup> Ian Joseph Hughes - Gornal Wood

13<sup>th</sup> Alan Malpass - Gornal Wood

14<sup>th</sup> Raymond Nigel Moss - Gornal Wood

22<sup>nd</sup> Geoffrey Stephen Whyman - All Saints

# Thank you

Thank you to all who gave or helped at my wife Jeans funeral at St Andrews church.

Many have said that it was the best funeral they had been to.

Special thanks to those who helped with refreshments and to Jan who arranged and took the service so well.

I am sure Jean was watching and would be extremely pleased with the service.

Thank you

# **Gordon Betteley**

#### 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 April magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk by Friday 22nd March

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

# Lent Message from Reverend Calum Burke

Dear friends, I hope you are having a fulfilling and blessed Lent. These forty days are a chance to refocus our attention towards Christ, His Church, and His Kingdom. Lent is an opportunity for us to first look within and see what is lurking under the cobwebs of our heart, so that we can look out and into the world. Over the last few weeks, I have been reflecting on the exchange between Jesus and his Disciples in Mark 8:27-29.

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

<sup>28</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Élijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

<sup>29</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

Lent is an opportunity for us to have a similar encounter with Jesus. A chance for us to hear Jesus asking each of us, "who do you say I am?".

I am sure that like me you have been praying for peace in the Holy Land. At Christmas we celebrated the Christ child born in Bethlehem and this Easter we will focus once again on the Holy Land, as we gaze at the cross and the empty tomb. It is important that we do not distance our religious devotion from the suffering of those who live in the very land our Christian story was formed. This Lent and Easter I want to encourage you to not only pray for yourself, but for those caught in the cycle of violence in Israel, Gaza and the wider region.

This February marks a year since I arrived in the parish. Where has the time gone! It has been a joy and an honour to work with you all. Thank you for the kindness and welcome so many of you have shown me over the last year. There have been many highlights of my time with you. The risk of drawing attention to any highlights is that I might forget others. I'm going to try anyway, by briefly reflecting on two!

Firstly, I have enjoyed working on the grant application for the renewal project. Working alongside the Renewal Working Group has been joyful and helpful. Although progress has been slower than we all hoped, I do believe that we are working towards a really exciting project which I believe will grow the church. Like a good meal, the wait will be worth it!

Secondly, I have really enjoyed the monthly family services at All Saints. Welcoming so many baptism families to church has been special. Thank you for the way you have been part of that welcome and for being willing to try new things, even when at times they have felt a bit uncomfortable. A particular highlight for me was our nativity from scratch service. It was really fun to use the church building in a new way. I think we saw the birth of some future actors!

Hopefully you have heard that the Bishop of Leeds has invited me to take up the post of Interim Priest in Charge in the Benefice of Thornbury, Woodhall with Waterloo in the Bradford Episcopal Area. I will be responsible for St. Margaret's in Bradford and St James in Pudsey. I am really looking forward to this new challenge. At the time of writing, I do not have a licencing date. However, I think this will likely be in late April or May. It depends on the Bishop's diary, the vicarage being ready and school places for our kids. I know many of you have expressed interest in attending the service. Thank you for this. I will keep you updated.

With all this in mind, I wish you a blessed and fulfilling Lent. I hope to see you at our services during Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

Blessings in Christ,

#### **Calum**

## **Violets?**

When my husband was six years old, he thought the creed included the line: "He suffered under a bunch of violets." It took him years before he realised that he should have been saying: "under Pontius Pilate."

# **MESSAGE FROM CANON JAN**

Spring is definitely on the way, the morning's are getting lighter thank goodness and you don't need to put the lights on quite so early. The Daffodils are already out, and all the beautiful spring flowers are beginning to show their heads.

We're in the season of Lent, traditionally a time of self denial of giving something up.

When I first came to St Andrew's 26 years ago I hadn't experienced a Lent journey before and decided to embrace it.

I would give up Chocolate, Now this would be a difficult one for me six weeks without chocolate!!!

I was still nursing at the time working nights and that sugar burst especially about 3am and again on my journey home at 8 am really gave me the energy boost I needed.

But I thought I can do this ~~~ well after just two weeks I was extremely irritable and one morning I fainted. I felt a real failure, I spoke to Father Antony who was the Priest in charge at that time and he said Jan I understand why you wanted to "give up something that you really like "however I believe it would be far better to Take Something UP.

He told me to go away have me chocolate and think, what could I take up? So I decided I would go to Evensong every week, well for the remaining weeks.

For the past 23 years every Lent I now Take Up, remembering that our Lord, gladly took up the Cross and died for each and everyone of us, so that we may have The gift of Life, Life in all its fullness here on earth and Eternal life.

For life can be so tough, but Jesus goes in front of us at our side and behind us everyday.

I came across these words and thought how true it is, we are not promised tomorrow and thankfully we don't know what it will bring, so grasp today.

Never mind about tomorrow it always is today, yesterday has vanished, wherever none can say

Each moment must be guarded, made worth the while somehow.

There are no other moments, it always is just now.

Just now is the hour that's golden, the moment to defend.

Just now is without beginning, just now can never end.

Then never mind tomorrow, tis today you must endow, with all that's true and noble

And the time for this is now.

May God bless you all ~~~~ Canon Jan

# What do you think of the weather forecasts?

It seems there is some turbulence between the Met Office and the Royal Meteorological Society.

The Royal Meteorological Society has objected to the recent "deluge" of cautionary statements that the Met Office put out concerning the recent storms. It says that "probably not a day went by" during one week of bad weather, "without a weather warning." It fears that too many warnings will risk making people "complacent".

The Met Office, backed by a Cabinet Officer minister, Alex Burghart, disagreed. Responding to an urgent question in the House of Commons, he said:

"The forecasting capabilities of our experts in the Met Office and the accuracy and speed at which they can warn and inform the public of incoming severe weather events does, with no doubt, save lives and protect our homes and businesses."

What do you think? Is the Met Office playing Nanny, or getting it right?

## THE PEACE OF MEDITATION

So we may know God better And feel His quiet power, Let us daily keep in silence A meditation hour.

For to understand God's greatness, And to use His gifts each day, The soul must learn to meet him, In a meditative way.

For our Father tells His children, That if they would know His will, They must seek Him in the silence, When all is calm and still.

So let us plan with prayful care ,to always allocate A certain portion of each day, to be still and meditate For when everything is quiet, and we're lost in meditation, Our soul is then preparing for a deeper dedication.

Loving God, help us to Understand that your law does not imprison us, but free's us

To receive your Love and share it with others.

#### **A**men

# Mother's reward

A man was decorating his new den and decided it was a good place to display all the awards he and his two sons had won at various athletic competitions. When he had filled two whole walls, he remarked to his wife that it was a shame she had no awards to contribute.

The following day, she produced, neatly framed, the birth certificates of their two sons, and added them to the display.

# **Mothers' Union**

In February we held our AGM followed by Crafts, organized by Di Spencer. The business part of the afternoon over we settled down to a card making session. This was an enjoyable and relaxing activity with members producing some super cards.

# **Wave of Prayer**

Our Wave of Prayer service is on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am in All Saints' Church. This is an opportunity to remember our link dioceses across the world. Those members who are unable to be at the service can pick up a service sheet from the back of our churches.

#### **Lenten Collection**

Our Lenten Collection this year, having spoken to Emily at the Women's Refuge, is to provide:

Children's underwear & nightwear Ladies' pyjamas

There is a box at the back of All Saints' and St Andrew's churches for items. If you would rather give a donation I am happy to get items on your behalf.

# A Gift of Dignity this Mothering Sunday

The Mothers' Union are promoting a 'Gift of Dignity' this Mothering Sunday. Members will have received information about this appeal in the post. I appreciate at this time there are many demands on our purses, but if anyone wishes to give to this appeal, please let Judy or I have your donation by 10<sup>th</sup> March.

~~~~~

#### **Dates**

5<sup>th</sup> March <u>12.00noon</u> Communion and Lunch in Church 13<sup>th</sup> March <u>10.00am</u> Wave of Prayer, All Saints' Church 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2.00pm Education Alternatives to School,

Elizabeth Jenkins

While sorting through some papers the other day I came across the following adapted from a sermon by Dr James Allan Francis.

# **One Solitary Man**

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman.

He grew up in another obscure village.

He worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty, then for three years he was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book He never held an office. He never had a family.

He never went to university.

He never travelled more than two hundred miles from the place he was born, or held an office.

He never did any of the things that usually accompany greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him.

His friends ran away. One of them denied him.

He was turned over to his enemies.

He went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves.

While he was dying his executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had, his coat.

When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

"Twenty long centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure for much of the human race.

I am within the mark when I say that,
all the armies that ever marched,
all the navies that ever sailed,
all the parliaments that ever sat.
and all the kings that ever reigned,
put together have not affect the life of man upon this earth
as powerfully as this One Solitary Life.

Makes you think, doesn't it?

Liz Williams

# Ladies' Society

A good number of ladies attended our February meeting to participate in a "Picture Quiz" devised and presented by Barbara Price. The categories were varied and interesting and much enjoyed by all. Perhaps some of us were more challenged by what we couldn't remember than we could. Happens to us all!

The next meeting in March is when we hold our A.G.M. Do please come along and help elect a new Committee.

#### Anne Wakefield.

#### **THANK YOU**

Bob Aston would like to thank everyone for all the cards, presents and good wishes for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, it was very kind of you all.

# Parish Magazines of the 1940s and 1950s

I recently received three Sedgley Parish Magazines (they weren't yet called 'The Beacon') dated July 1945, November 1948, and January 1951. They offer a rare insight into the village as it was, and feature key traders who were mainstays of the community and regular advertisers on the magazine's pages.

In July 1945, the Second World War was coming to an end, with Germany already defeated, and Japan yet to surrender. So, it came as a real surprise to read the text, because there are absolutely no references whatsoever to the six years of death, chaos and privation caused by the War.

Instead, the articles relate solely to regular church activities such as the Summer Garden Party and the Altar Flowers rota. There is however a short reference to a political forum held at All Saints' Church, convened by Colonel Gibbons in advance of the General Election held on 5th July 1945 that resulted in a Labour landslide.

There appears to have been very little change in the make-up of the Sedgley trading community over the war years and into the 1950s. In the Bull Ring, Eggintons was a landmark building, replaced in the 70s by today's block containing Retwisted and Tipton and Coseley Building Society. They were not only dispensing chemists - they also had a café, open from 7.30am to 10pm and a restaurant open 12 noon to 10pm; and a much—loved toy shop. In 1945 they were touting 'Egginton's Balsam of Horehound' for Coughs and Colds: 8d and 1s 4d per bottle — Good for Children and Adults.'

Opposite them in the Bull Ring, in an annexe to the Clifton Cinema building, was J.A. Sproson Vinrace, who were grocers, but specialised in fine coffees and teas.

A store that is said to have had everything for the home and garden was White's, at No 4 Bull Ring, now Guitar Crazy.

Two doors away, at what is now Beacon Crafts, was Howard Hartill Butchers, who sported a very fine waxed moustache and roasted a pig each year at the church's summer fayres at the old vicarage. Fred Hartill, Howard's son, would later go on to be famous as owner of Pennwood Forge Mill, who won the European Show Jumping Championships at Hickstead in 1973 ridden by Paddy McMahon, beating German ace showjumper Alwin Schockemohle.

Also selling toys was BD Price, together with their main specialism, which was bicycles. Generations of Sedgley children obtained their first bike from them. Today's store is in the same location as it was in the 1950s - however the shop did temporarily relocate to the Parade in High Street, before returning to High Holborn.

A shop sign that caused hilarity at the time was 'E.A.Wright' - due to the way it was pronounced in the local Sedgley patois suggesting he 'wasn't right' in some way!

He was a butcher in Bilston Street and local children were known to shout across the street 'Am yow all right mister?' to which he would bellow 'Get lost you little .....s!'

He advertised himself in the magazine as 'The Oldest Butcher In Sedgley' which left the reader wondering whether he was the oldest butcher in age terms, or in the time his business had been in the village! Once scanned and catalogued, the magazines will be placed in the All Saints' box at Dudley Archives in Tipton Street, Dudley, by the Black Country Museum.

# **Martin Jones**

# **Destination?**

Lenora, 95-years-old and in excellent health, confided that she was terribly worried: "Every one of my friends has already died and gone on to heaven. I'm afraid they're all wondering where I went!"

# Inability does not equal inactivity

It is perhaps a well-polished truth, but one well worth remembering again: when it comes to salvation, "We were justified by faith alone, through grace alone, but we are not sanctified by faith alone".

In other words, we are made acceptable to God only through the death and resurrection of Jesus, who dealt with our sin. But then the Bible calls on Christians to take their transformation into Christlikeness very seriously. Repentance and conversion and receiving the Holy Spirit into our lives is just the beginning. Now we need to do all we can to allow the fruit of the Spirit to grow in our lives.

From now on, our daily walk is never alone: we are to keep in step with His Spirit, and to 'work out' our salvation in our daily lives. In other words, obedience to God is fundamental in our Christian pilgrimage.

St Paul stressed this again and again. In Romans 12 he set forth 23 directives to clarify what we must do as we cooperate with the Spirit in our transformation. St Peter adds (2 Peter 1:10,11) "...make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ".

When we truly want to "know Christ and the power of his resurrection", we will see the Holy Spirit beginning to transform us. As Augustine wisely noted about the walk into a sanctified Christlike life: "Without us, God will not; but without Him, we cannot".

As someone once put it: "Each morning we must raise the sails of our boat and go where the Spirit leads. He brings the wind and He governs the speed and direction, but we must cooperate by ensuring that we join Him on the journey."

## The Nicene Creed

In the Nicene Creed we say 'We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.' In the gospel accounts of the resurrection there is a lot of looking and seeing. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went early to the tomb. They saw the stone rolled aside and inside the tomb a young man dressed in white said to them: 'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. (Mark 16:6).

Like the women we would probably have been left 'trembling and bewildered' by what we saw that morning. Had the body been taken? Was the young man an angel or deceiver? Was Jesus raised to life again, or was this an elaborate hoax?

Easter gives us a choice. We can approach life looking for disappointment, fear and despair. Or we look for resurrection and find not just an empty tomb, but encounter the living Christ. He continues to meet us in our daily lives bringing new hope, forgiveness of sin, healing and wholeness and the assurance of his presence through the darkest of times.

God invites us to see our lives differently and look for Christ's resurrection life, at work in our lives and in the people around us.

# Do what we can to help...

Several women in the church prayer group were visiting an elderly friend who was ill. After a while, they rose to leave and told her: "We'll do what we can to help. We promise to keep you in our prayers."

"Thank you," she said. "But really, I can do my own praying. The thing I can't do is the dishes in the sink in the kitchen...."



# Join us every week for fun filled activities



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Tuesdays

11am - 12pm

Pop in for a cuppa and a chat
to help tackle loneliness one
Talkin' Table at a time.



Blue Light Breakfast Last Wednesday of each month 10am - 11.30am Join us each month for delicious breakfast treats and drinks. It's our way of saying thank you!



Stay and Play\*
Wednesdays (Starts 6th Sept)
11am - 12pm
Bring along your little ones
for fun and games with our
residents and make new
friends.



Dementia Café
Last Friday of each month
10.30am - 12pm
We'll have delicious
homemade refreshments and
a variety of entertainment
and activities.

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

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#### Wednesday

Spanish for Beginners

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Keep Fit For All \*\*

7.00pm-9.00pm

#### **Thursday**

Guitar Lessons for Beginners \*\*\*

Guitar Lessons for Improvers

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Spanish Lessons for Beginners Spanish Lessons for Improvers

9.30am-11.30am 12.00pm-2.00pm



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www.thedormstoncentre.co.uk

\*\* 11.30am-12.30pm

\*\*\* 6.00pm-7.00pm

# The story of Aspirin

You will probably have taken aspirin, in one form or other, many times. But how much do you know of its history?

It was 125 years ago this month, on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1899 that the German pharmaceutical company Bayer first patented aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid). But this is based on salicylic acid, which was used in herbal medicines as far back as Sumerian times, in 2500 BC. It was then that the Assyrians used willow leaves for rheumatic disease. The Egyptians also used willow leaves, as well as myrtle, to ease joint pain or inflammation.

In Greece, Hippocrates (460-377 BC) recommended an extract of willow bark for fever, pain and childbirth. And even the peoples of ancient China, Rome, and Native America all discovered and used plants containing salicylic acid.

Fast forward to Chaucer's 14<sup>th</sup> century, and the Knight's Tale recommends the use of meadow sweet for pain, another source of acetylsalicylic acid.

In 1763, some science was introduced, when an English clergyman, the Revd Edward Stone, used willow bark to successfully treat fever 'ague' in 50 of his parishioners. He carefully documented it all for the President of the Royal Society.

In 1828, Johann Andreas Buchner, a Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Munich, purified salicin from willow bark.

In 1859, Professor Hermann Kolbe, at Marburg University worked out the chemical structure of salicylic acid and made it synthetically. In 1897, Dr Felix Hoffman, a German chemist at Friedrich Bayer and Co, managed to produce pure stable acetylsalicylic acid (ASA). His discovery was the *first time* that a drug had been made synthetically, and so it was the birth of both aspirin and the pharmaceutical industry.

Finally, in early 1899 the new compound was named and registered Aspirin. The 'A' comes from acetyl and 'spir' from the first part of *Spirea ulmaria* (Meadowsweet) a botanical source of salicylic acid. So next time you take an aspirin, think of the Assyrians chewing willow leaves, 4,000 years ago.

# Thanking two kinds of Mother on 10th March

Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent, is the day for honouring our Mother Church, and has been celebrated since the Middle Ages. Mother's Day is an annual day to honour our mothers, and it began in America in May 1907.

In the US, Canada, Australia and Mexico, Mother's Day is still held in May. In Britain, Mothers' Day is held on Mothering Sunday, so the two days are often merged in people's minds.

If you ask Google for ideas of how to be nice to your church on that day, you won't find much. But if you want to be kind to your mother that day, you will be spoilt for choice. High on all the lists are suggestions for taking her to lunch, giving flowers, a card, or paying for her to have a day doing something she loves.

Whatever you choose to do, probably the best thing to give your mother must surely be yourself: some time and some love. Remind her of the funny and touching stories of your childhood and thank her for all the things that she did for you. Give her some good company and show her some gratitude. Let her know that you love her and appreciate her. Remember that the Commandment 'Honour thy father and mother' was the first commandment that came with a promise of blessing on you, if you obey.

# THE SEDGLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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

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

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



**ALL Saints Church Hall** 

Working for the Community

Vicar Street, Sedgley.

# Reeling In the Years

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

@2pm
21st March — "Meet me in St Louis"

Refreshments 1.30pm

If interested, please contact Gail 01902 540289 admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

| Reeling In Years Programme  All Saints Church Hall                |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Refreshments at 1:30pm Film starts 2pm                            |   |
| January 18th<br>It's a Wonderful Life 1:36                        |   |
| February 15 <sup>th</sup>                                         |   |
| Seven Brides for Seven Brothers 1:42  ***  March 21 <sup>st</sup> |   |
| Meet me in St Louis 1:53<br>***<br>April 18 <sup>th</sup>         |   |
| Me and My Gal 1:44  ***                                           |   |
| May 16 <sup>th</sup><br>Roman Holiday 1:53<br>***                 | П |
| June 20 <sup>th.</sup><br>Summer Holiday 1:47                     |   |
| Dementia Friendly<br>Supported by Sedgley Combined Charity        |   |
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Romans 1:20



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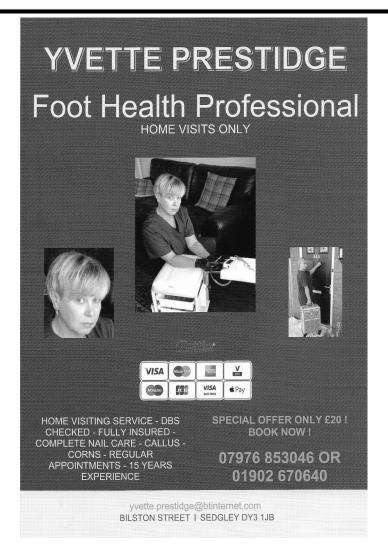
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## The Rectory

# St James the Least



## My dear Nephew Darren

Visits from your parishioners to our church are always welcome. But I did not expect them to return to you complaining because our pews are uncomfortable.

Pews are *meant* to be uncomfortable. The unshakeable belief of our congregation is that the more uncomfortable the pew, the holier the worship must be. By the same token, an 8am Service is more fervent than one at I lam, since it is much more socially inconvenient. If you add on enduring sub-zero temperatures and damp, then sainthood clearly beckons. Your people may be used to lolling in upholstered chairs in tropical temperatures, but I am sure such comfort places their souls in grave peril.

Our pews were built 500 years ago, when people were several inches shorter and many pounds lighter, and so could accommodate themselves on them perfectly adequately. The fact that a twenty-first century body is in constant danger of sliding off the seat and requires knees to be folded somewhere near ears at least helps to keep minds focussed – apart from Colonel Wainwright, who still manages to sleep peacefully throughout Mattins every Sunday.

I could point out that your chairs make kneeling almost impossible – although I suspect that posture is not encouraged in your church, as people would then be unable to read the words on your overhead projector or wave their arms about quite as easily during the hymns. While the majority of our congregation find the Anglican crouch perfectly adequate, you can see those who flop to their knees on hearing "let us pray" from the clouds of dust sent up from suddenly compressed hassocks, which were purchased to commemorate Queen Victoria's Accession.

I may also point out that our box pews are very useful for modern times. Once a family is seated, with the door firmly shut, then any toddler is penned in and unable to use the aisles as a racing circuit. Medieval carpenters were clearly forward-thinking people. Admittedly, box pew doors do tend to stick, and few manage to look dignified while they wait for step ladders to be brought before they can climb out.

If only you would remove your chairs and substitute benches without backs, turn off all heating and replace carpets with slate slabs, I am sure your congregation's religious zeal would soar.

Your loving uncle,

#### **Eustace**

# Our young people are just so unhappy

Young people in the UK are feeling more lonely, and yet are less likely to have a stable relationship or friendship than they did, even a decade ago. So finds the Boys Brigade, which carried out an extensive study as part of its recent 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary events.

Almost half of the young people questioned admitted that they were in regular mental distress, and yet had had no medical diagnosis or treatment.

Rates of self-harm, disability, and obesity have also gone up. One in every seven young people is even unhappy with their appearance.

The study, Youth Culture and Trends also found that the shift to spending more time online with others, rather than in face-to-face relationships, mirrors a reported decline in the satisfaction with friendships and rise in loneliness.







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## **SERVICES FOR THE MONTH - MARCH**

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

9.30am Holy Communion St Andrews1 Iam Holy Communion All Saints6.30pm Evensong All Saints

#### Wednesday 6th March 10am Holy Communion St Peters

#### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March** (Mothering Sunday)

8am Holy Communion All Saints
9.30am Worship for All St Andrews
10am Worship for All St Peters
11am Holy Communion All Saints

#### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 10am Holy Communion

#### Sunday 17th March

9.30am Worship for All St Andrews 10am Worship for All St Peters 11am Family Service All Saints

#### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 10am Holy Communion

#### Sunday 24th March (Palm Sunday)

8am Holy Communion All Saints 9.30am Holy Communion St Andrews 10am Holy Communion St Peters 11am Holy Communion All Saints

#### Monday 25th March

7.30pm Holy Communion St Andrews

#### Tuesday 26th March

7.30pm Holy Communion St Peters

#### Wednesday 27th March

10am Holy Communion St Peters

#### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March (Maundy Thursday)

7.30pm Holy Communion All Saints

#### Friday 29th March (Good Friday)

2.30pm Stations of the Cross St Andrews

2.30pm Stations of the Cross St Peters

#### **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March** (Easter Saturday)

7.30pm Easter Vigil Communion All Saints

#### Sunday 31st March (Easter Sunday

8am Holy Communion All Saints
9.30am Holy Communion St Andrews
10am Holy Communion St Peters
11am Holy Communion All Saints