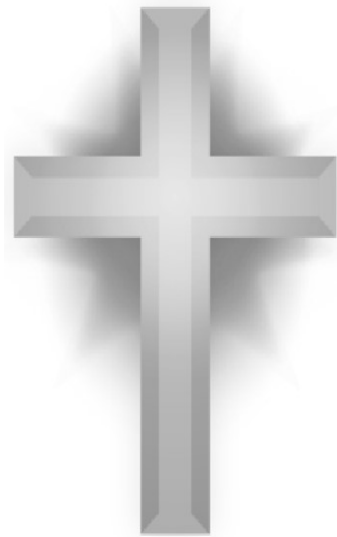
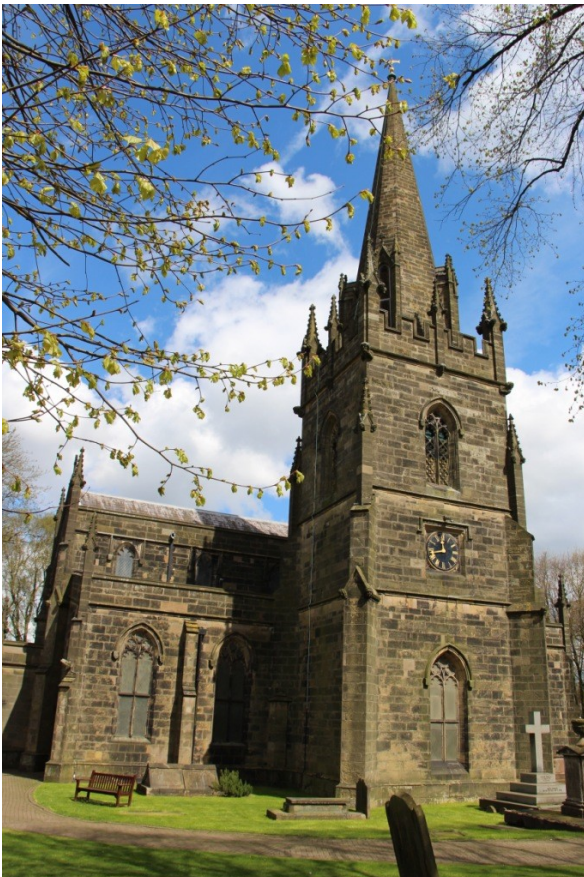


THE BEACON

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

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Kingdom People
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50p

May 2021

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Team Vicar	Rev Catherine Mitchell	01902 677897
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Ordinand and ALM	Claire Cox	07812 010108
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Barbara Baker	01902 882847
Pastoral Care	Tracey Bate	01902 880727
	Jackie Hewlett	01902 295164
	Sarah Parker	01902 885570
Worship Leader	Suzanne Bradley	01902 880055
Youth Leader and Youth Group	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
Singing Angels	Claire Cox	07812 010108
PCC Secretary	Kath Apperley	01902 663253
PCC Treasurer	Sheila Moss	01902 893570
Parish Office	Gail Griffiths	01902 540289
Web Editor	Martin Jones	01902 884461

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	01902 880055
DCC Secretary	John Powell	
Uniformed Organisations	Please Contact David Moss	01902 893570

St Andrew's

Who's Who

Warden	Canon Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Children's Advocate	Carol Haynes	
Treasurer	Alan Turner	01902 670938
DCC Secretary	Rosemary Reed	01902 679007
Little Angels Baby & Toddler Group	Canon Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Singing Angels	Claire Cox	07812 010108

All Saints Who's Who

Vestry Clerk	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	Pam Pugh	07860 256535
Junior Church	Barbara Price	01902 676591
Bell Ringer	Keith Williams	01902 672585
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Youth Leader	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
Brownies	Heather Churm	01902 674709
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Men's Society	Roger Berry	01902 881374
Mothers' Union	Liz Williams	01902 672880
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	Steve Castle	07971 899072
Noah's Ark		
Parent & Toddler Group	Linda Edwards	01902 672556

Funerals

Funerals in April

6th May Carole Janice Powell – All Saints

8th May Christine Loach – Gornal Wood

9th Susan Ashwin – Gornal Wood

14th Gladys Irene Johns – Gornal Wood

15th Ruth Margaret Naylor – Gornal Wood

16th Roy Addison – All Saints

22nd Shirley Ann Flavell – Gornal Wood

28th Vilma Venables – 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 June magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

Friday 21st May

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

Do not send files in pdf format

WEBSITE: **www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk**

To Magazine Deliverers

Could you please get email addresses for all the people that you deliver to and let either Gail Griffiths or Karen Evans know .

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 for 2021 or 2022, please contact

Chris Williams chriswilliams550@btinternet.com.

Are you awesome?

From Guy Hewlett

How honest are you with God? I recently heard a comedian on the television talking about the British reserve, and how we tend to underplay things.

He was comparing the British to his experience of Australians. So, he told the story of a British person being asked 'how are you today?', and the answer was something like 'oh not too bad' or 'it could be worse'. Then asking an Australian person 'how are you today?' and getting the answer 'I'm awesome', or 'I'm great'.

It's strange isn't it how when people ask us how we are, we often give what we might call a social answer, whether the answer is 'not too bad' or 'I'm awesome'.

This is often not a real answer!

That is understandable because we wouldn't want to wear 'our hearts on our sleeves' in public. When we're not feeling very good, for whatever reason, there are probably only certain people that we would want to share with.

But there is a danger with this reserve in that difficult feelings can go unexpressed, and those difficult feelings can cause us all sorts of problems over time.

We are coming through a pandemic. We have had over a year of the most difficult and challenging circumstances. We are all bound to have a mixture of feelings, and at the very least a tiredness caused by the challenges that we are going through.

I wonder what you say when somebody asks you 'how are you today?' and I wonder if you are able to tell God how you really feel?

Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

This doesn't necessarily mean that when we come to Jesus with the truth of how we are that somehow our situation is changed. But what it does mean is that Jesus, in the middle of the situation with us, can change our response to the situation for the better.

I have said many times before that God is a God of the mess and he is in the mess with us.

Please, with courage in these difficult times, be kind to yourself. Know that even you if you would not say you are awesome, God certainly would call you awesome! For you are made in his image, he loves you eternally, he died and rose from the dead for you!

Be honest with God and tell him in your prayer how you really are. Allow his love to fill you. Find rest for your soul and look to the future with optimism!

Mea Culpa

A group of lads took a trip to France and decided to attend Mass in a small town, even though none of them understood French. They managed to stand, kneel and sit when the rest of the congregation did, so it wouldn't be obvious they were tourists. At one point, the priest spoke and the man sitting next to them stood up, so they got up, too. The entire congregation broke into hearty laughter.

After the service they approached the priest, who spoke English, and asked him what had been so funny. The priest said he had announced a birth in the parish and had asked the father to stand up.

Pentecost

The celebration of Pentecost this month could be described as a birthday party for the Church, as we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples (Acts 2:1-13). What are we celebrating?

God's Promise: The disciples obeyed Jesus' instructions as they gathered in the Upper Room: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised' (1:4). They met expectantly in prayer for God's promised gift. Just as we look forward to birthday presents, how eager are we to receive more of the Spirit in our lives?

God's Power: 'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit' (4). The disciples needed the power of the Spirit to be different: not fearfully gathered behind locked doors, but energised to make Christ known. The Spirit can transform our lives into the likeness of Jesus and give gifts to equip our witness. Although the disciples' experience of this power was overwhelming, it was essentially an encounter with God's love. For us, this can be equally emotional or quiet, but all are included, and nobody is excluded from this experience.

God's Purpose: The disciples 'began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.' (4). The Spirit empowered their witness, so that everyone heard them speaking in their own 'native language' (lit: dialect, v8). We all have a story to tell of God's activity in our lives and it's the Spirit who translates our words and actions into a language that those around can understand! At Pentecost, 3,000 people were added to the church in one day! What do we expect of the Spirit in our day?

'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).

I thought I would share with you some of the thoughts out of my Friendship book which I am reading.

His face was gaunt,
He walked with a stoop and he carried an old suitcase.
He was too late for a foodbank parcel, but they managed to get him some fresh fruit and vegetables plus a few tins which they put together for him.
I shook his hand and wished him all the best.
He looked me up and down.
I hope things get better for you also he said.
I was confused.
Then I realised I was wearing old paint and plaster splattered clothes, ones which I keep for messy work.
I had been doing some tiling in the local church.
Of course, he did not know that, or that I had other clothes at home.
Likewise, I had no idea what had brought him to this point in his life.
Judge not!!!!
Thank you my friend I said I really appreciate that.
And my day did in fact get better.

Only last week I saw a homeless person in Sedgley, as I was going in Greggs anyway I also bought him a sausage roll.
I took it to him thinking I was doing the right thing, but when I gave it to him he said I wish you would have given me the money instead.
Not the reaction I expected and felt a bit disappointed, but in my mind I had done someone a good deed even if he could not see that.

We should in fact never judge a book by its cover.
Everyone has their own story to tell on where they are in their life today.
A smile and a kind word really do cost nothing.

Take care everyone
Brighter days are ahead

Gail

Mothers' Union

Mother' Union Council Meeting, 10.00am, 12th May

This meeting will be held on Zoom and will be an opportunity to hear Debbie Huxton from Lichfield Diocese talking about modern day slavery, a subject she is passionate about and very well informed.

I will forward the invitation to members online when I receive it, and report on the talk in the June magazine for those unable to join on Zoom.

'Thy Kingdom Come' Service

Mothers' Union members and friends are invited to join this service on 14th May at 2.00pm on Facebook or YouTube. This uplifting service will have contributions from across the UK and around the world and the address will be given by our Central Chaplain, Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson, Bishop of Penrith.

~~

These first two items make me very aware of the increased use of the internet to communicate with people, due to the restrictions of the pandemic. Those unable to access the internet may feel disconnected. Hopefully the Mothers' Union Newsletters and phone calls have helped to keep everyone in touch with what is going on.

Our confidence has been shaken and as we cautiously move forward, encouraging each other with small steps, we look to Tuesday 6th July when we hope to meet face to face as a branch.

More details about this meeting in the June magazine.

You will all have received the new magazine '**Connected**' by now and I would like to hear what you think of it.

Finger

The Moving Finger writes, and, having writ, moves on. And so, I stare and wonder – where does the ink come from?!

Festival of Flowers

As you will have read in the Mothers' Union Newsletter the diocese are planning a 'Festival of Flowers' to mark the centenary of the death of our founder, Mary Sumner. There will be flower arrangements in All Saints' and in St Andrew's Churches, as well as displays of the work of Mothers' Union. We are planning to open our churches on Friday 6th August for people to visit.

~~~

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Iris Byfield. Iris was a faithful and dedicated member of the Mothers' Union for almost 30 years and will be sorely missed by us all. We hold Julie and Chris, and Andrew and Mary in our prayers at this sad time.

Take care  
**Liz**

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# **Inside the country vicar's all-day Easter marathon**

Edited from an article by Emma Robarts\*.....

From leading online worship to managing a booking system for sunrise services, multi-parish clergy face a daunting task at Easter

For vicars such as Rev James Sawyer, the task of keeping the flame of Christianity alive can be a Herculean task

For the multi-parish vicar, Easter Day is the clerical equivalent of a trolley dash. In our rural benefice, all churches are open and our Rector will be running against the clock to hold services in each of the six he serves, beginning with a 6.15am outdoor 'sunrise service' and ending with 6pm evensong.

Like an Olympian, he will carry a candle flame – symbolising the light of the resurrected Christ – taken from the bonfire at last night's Easter Vigil and strapped, in a large lantern, into the passenger seat as he drives between villages, trying not to put it out, set fire to his car or collide with a tractor.

He celebrated last year's sunrise service alone, maintaining the rural tradition of outdoor services. Normally, the flame would have been taken into church and shared. Instead, he took it home and maintained it religiously until the churches reopened, some 24 weeks later – burning through a large quantity of candles, fortunately without burning down his vicarage.

Pity vicars like mine, who are also wrestling the burdens of central safety diktats in order to restore physical worship, while running a booking system to manage attendance numbers. People can bring their dogs to the sunrise service – cue risk assessment concerns about dogfights. Small choirs are allowed indoors, but congregations can only sing outdoors. The socially distanced Easter Egg hunt is a miracle of strategic planning. Meanwhile, the usual jolly breakfast is cancelled and he will have no fuel injection of coffee and Simnel cake to keep him going.

Nevertheless, our middle-aged Rector has thrown himself into Easter preparations with touching enthusiasm. As a curate, he rashly lit an Easter fire in hay bales which became an inferno, singeing an eyebrow and the hair on his arms. Now, he is countrified enough to have welded his own fire pit. He is looking forward to seeing his congregations back in their own village churches, knowing those beloved spaces exert a particular pull.

Let us try not to extinguish the Easter flame – although a friend of mine blew it out one year after the service, thinking she was being helpful.

John Anderson (*\*Emma is a writer and churchwarden who I assisted in replacing their rural church roof with GRP*).

---

## **Nectar in your garden**

Our home gardens are now the largest source of food for insects such as bees and wasps in towns and cities.

They yield 85 per cent of the nectar produced in urban areas, according to a study published in the Journal of Ecology.

Three such gardens will generate about a teaspoon a day of the sugar-rich liquid which is found in the flowers that the pollinators drink for energy. A teaspoon of nectar is the equivalent of more than a ton of food for an adult human, and it is enough to fuel thousands of flying bees. One ecologist has called home gardens “pivotal” in promoting biodiversity in urban areas across the country. Gardens are thought to cover 29 per cent of the land in urban areas, which is six times the area of parks and 40 times that of allotments.

The research was carried out in partnership with the universities of Edinburgh and Reading and the Royal Horticultural Society.



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## **By Frank Topping:**

May every day  
Begin with space  
Enough to see  
My saviour's face.

May every hour  
Possess within it  
The space to live  
A prayerful minute.

And may I find  
From night's alarms  
The space between  
My saviour's arms .

---

## **All Saints Church, Caretaker**

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All Saints Church Sedgley are looking to appoint a self-motivated and flexible part-time caretaker to look after the Church and associated Hall located in Vicar Street, Sedgley. Hours of work to be agreed based on 10h per week, annual leave 28 days including bank holidays pro rata on contracted hours.

Enquiries and further information to Gail Griffiths (Administrator, Parish Office 01902 540289 – 10:00-12:00 Monday – Friday  
[admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk](mailto:admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk)

Please note the deadline is the 14<sup>th</sup> May.

## Chatting with Chris Williams

*What is your guilty pleasure?*

Chocolate chip ice cream.

*What simple thing sparks joy in you?*

Bird song.

*What advice would you hand down?*

Be true to yourself.

*What do you do to relax?*

Read.

*What household item could you not do without?*

Kitchen knife.

*If you could meet a famous person (alive or dead) who would it be and why?*

Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

To discuss how he overcame all the difficulties he met and turned his visions into reality

*What is your helpful daily mantra?*

Be kind to others.

---

## Sportsmanlike

During a game, the coach asked one of his young players: “Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?” The little boy nodded yes. “Do you understand that what matters is winning together as a team?” The little boy nodded yes. “So,” the coach continued, “when a strike is called, or you are out at first, you don’t argue or curse or attack the umpire. Do you understand all that?” Again, the boy nodded yes.

“Good,” said the coach. “Now go over there and explain it to your mother.”



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## MAGAZINE ARTICLES

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\* Is there an article you would like to write about and put in our  
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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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\* Ladies Walk  
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\* 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 leave donations of food in the box on the table outside All Saints Rectory each day.

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 All Saints Rectory door.



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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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# **Fairtrade Spiced Chocolate and Almond Cake**

**By Andrew Rose, Mezzo Restaurant, Conran Group, London.**

300g fairtrade dark chocolate  
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Fairtrade cocoa powder for dusting  
175g fairtrade sugar  
1 tbsp mixed spice  
25g plain sieved flour  
6 eggs separated

Preheat oven to 170 deg and grease a 8 – 8.5 inch cake tin with fairtrade cocoa powder.

After separating the eggs, cream together the egg yolks and 130g of the sugar until they become light and fluffy.

Mix together the ground almonds, flour and mixed spices.

Whisk the egg whites and remaining sugar to stiff peaks.

Melt the chocolate with the butter and leave to cool.

Mix the melted chocolate and butter with the egg mixture.

Then fold in the whipped egg whites, starting with 1/3 of the mix followed by the rest.

Finally, gradually fold in the flour mix making sure that the batter remains light and aerated.

Pour the finished batter into the cake tin and bake for approximately 1 hour or until the cake becomes firm and springy to the touch, when lightly pressed in the middle.

Once left to cool, slice and serve with clotted cream.

To use as a birthday cake, simply dust with icing sugar and arrange 10 candles around the top

## **CMS honours its women missionaries who are working for a better world**

Two centuries after the death of Mary Bouffler, the first woman sent out in her own right by Church Mission Society to be a missionary overseas, CMS is honouring the achievements of inspiring women who followed in Bouffler's footsteps, to share their faith and transform communities. Bouffler travelled to Sierra Leone in 1820 and tragically died less than a year later. She was the first in a long line of countless CMS women missionaries to battle injustice and prejudice and fight for change, human rights and empowerment.

From Ann-Marie Wilson, who set up the charity *28 Too Many* to highlight and stop the practice of FGM (female genital mutilation), to Helen Kisakye (nee Burningham), who founded *SPLASH*, a dance troupe in Uganda that intentionally includes young people living with disabilities, and *Nevedita*, who leads a programme in Sri Lanka for children who have been abused and traumatised, women have been integral to mission throughout CMS's history.

Healing, restoration and opportunity are common themes where these pioneering women are involved.

CMS local partner Rachel Karanja, a businesswoman, church leader and entrepreneur from Kenya, explained that being left housebound for over a year after a stroke inspired her to set up *Women of Destiny Kenya*. She said: "The charity helps to support women who have faced significant struggles in their lives and enables them to discover their God-given destinies."

Debbie James, CMS's Deputy CEO and Director of Mission Transformation, said: "At times in CMS's own history, women have been undervalued but what has been achieved over 200 years is testament to the tenacity, talent and imagination of countless women of God"

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## **Remembering an outstanding astronomer**

It was 150 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1871, that John Herschel – British astronomer, mathematician, chemist and pioneering photographer – died at the age of 79. Among other things, he named seven of Saturn's moons and four moons of Uranus, as well as investigating colour blindness. He was also President of the Royal Astronomical Society three times.

He was the son of Sir William Herschel, a distinguished scientist who had moved from Germany to Britain and later discovered the planet Uranus, thus creating a pronunciation problem that still hasn't gone away.

Sir John Herschel, himself knighted in 1831, made many contributions to the science of photography and invented the blueprint. He was also deeply interested in the philosophy of science and pioneered an inductive approach to experiments and the construction of scientific theories.

Between 1834 and 1838 he worked in South Africa with his wife Margaret, studying and photographing Cape flora as well as continuing his astronomical interests. It was here that he met Charles Darwin, on his way home in the HMS Beagle, and had a significant influence on him.

Sir John also developed and backed the use of the impressive Julian day

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## **The puppies**

A client brought a litter of Golden Retriever puppies to the local veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups tumbled over and under one another in their box, the experienced vet realised it would be difficult to tell which had been treated and which hadn't. So, the vet turned on the water tap, wet her fingers and gently moistened each dog's head as she finished giving it the necessary shots.

After the fourth puppy, the vet noticed her hitherto talkative client had grown silent and was looking rather reverent. As the animal doctor sprinkled the last pup's head, the owner leaned forward and whispered, "Thank you so much. I hadn't realised you baptised them, too."



# **100 years of the British Legion**

One hundred years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1921, the British Legion was founded in the aftermath of the First World War, to provide support to veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants. It was created at a time when two million people were unemployed. More than six million had served in the war: of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability, and half of those were disabled permanently.

Four organisations came together at the instigation of Lancastrian Lance Bombardier Tom Lister, who was angered at the Government's unwillingness to help, and Field Marshal Earl Haig, who had been Commander in Chief of the British Forces. The Legion campaigned for fair treatment of those who given everything for their country, and it continues this work today.

In 1922, the Legion's poppy factory opened in the Old Kent Road, London, with 40 disabled men manufacturing 1000 poppies a week. The first Poppy Day was held that same year. The Festival of Remembrance began in 1927, and the Legion became 'Royal' in 1971 – 50 years ago – on its golden anniversary.

At first membership of the Legion was confined to ex-Service personnel, but it was expanded to include serving members of the Forces in 1981.

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## **Ah – but where are they now?**

The children had been grouped together around the minister to pose for the annual Sunday School photograph, and the minister was smiling encouragement.

“Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up,” he said. “You could point to each other and say: ‘There’s Jennifer; hope she’s made it as a solicitor,’ or ‘That’s Michael, hope he’s made it as a doctor.’”

A small voice at the back rang out, “And there’s the minister – hope he made it to heaven...”

I wish the world was a happier place,  
Everyone respectful of religion and race,  
A place where all could freely dwell,  
And there were good time for all to tell  
The vicious things we hear about  
The fights, muggings and thing they shout,  
The damage done to one another,  
To Mother .Father, sister and Brother,  
When will we learn what life's about  
Or will we always complain and shout,  
We should think of are time on Earth,  
Of all the things and what they're worth.  
Let each one to their own religion cling,  
To their God quietly pray or loudly sing,  
There are people who are good and kind,  
Good living and caring they have in mind,  
So just lets hope that down the line,  
We will step back to a better time  
Where respect and tolerance hold their sway  
Where decency and care rule the day.

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## **Famine may be on the way**

That is the stark warning of the Disasters Emergency Committee coalition of UK aid agencies, who says that the economic devastation caused by the pandemic is leading to increasing hunger in poorer countries.

Thousands are likely to die this year as the knock-on effect of Covid-19 worldwide has left millions less able to afford food. South Sudan and Yemen are already on the brink of famine, and Afghanistan and Democratic Republic of the Congo are also in deep trouble.

Just at a time when Covid-19 and wars have crippled the economic and health systems of many countries, humanitarian funding has dropped as donor countries also struggle.

Saleh Saeed, the committee's chief executive, explained: "People living in places made perilous by conflict, violence and climate disasters are coping as best they can, but the odds are stacked against them. The knock-on effects of the pandemic have crippled economies, making the world's poorest people even poorer."

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## **What will happen to our offices in the future?**

There will be less of them – a lot less.

In fact, one recent study warns that the pandemic will mean office space in the UK shrinks by a fifth, which is 18 million square ft.

Certainly, the current flexibility of working from home, brought on by the pandemic, seems set to bring in permanent changes, according to the risk management and insurance broker Gallagher.

In the future, office will be mainly for collaborating or attending meetings, or for storing vital equipment and IT. Working in an office five days a week will become a thing of the past. And of course, that, in turn, will have a profound impact on the look and shape of our cities.

## **THE CURRENT PATTERN FOR REGULAR SERVICES IS:**

- Monthly 8am Sunday Holy Communion at All Saints on the first Sunday
- Monthly 10am Holy Communion service on a Wednesday at St. Peter's, on the second Wednesday

### **From Sunday 4th July, if allowed**

#### **All Saints**

8.00am Holy Communion each Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion service each Sunday (also on Zoom and Facebook)

6.30pm service of Night Prayer (Compline) on Zoom for 3 Sundays a month and a monthly service of Evensong.

#### **St Andrew**

9.30am service of Worship Together or Holy Communion.

#### **St Peter**

10.30am Holy Communion or Worship for All each Sunday

10am Holy Communion service on each Wednesday

## **THIS LINK WILL TAKE YOU TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ONLINE RESOURCES INCLUDING SUNDAY SERVICES:**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online>

## **DAILY HOPE PHONE LINE**

You can continue to access services at Daily Hope, which is a free national telephone line, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of the phone: 0800 804 8044.

# **Sarah Powell**

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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 of All



My dear Nephew Darren

On reflection, inviting your parishioners to join in our annual Rose Queen celebrations may not have been entirely wise. It was cheering to see that your people arrived on carnival floats, although it was less happy that some of them should have chosen to dress up as coronavirus bugs, full of those nasty spike proteins – that startled some of the timid residents in our community.

Once the procession started, your drivers did not seem to have grasped the fact that the vehicles were expected to tour the village slowly, for the benefit of spectators, instead of treating it as a competitive race. I noticed that numbers on your floats gradually diminished as they were flung off while careering round corners. Those who had a walk of several miles back home while dressed as pirates and ballerinas had my sympathy. Our tea ladies, however, were less sympathetic when one of your hay bales was spun off on a tight corner and went through our Women's Guild like a row of skittles.

The local police normally use the afternoon to do a little gentle point duty while drinking gallons of sweet tea; this year, the number of tickets issued for speeding, and not social distancing, should boost our constabulary's figures for the next 12 months.

I must concede that the group who decided to make a *papier mache* swan for one of your floats showed great imagination. It was such a pity that they did not know a 15-foot-high swan would be driven under a 12-foot bridge. The drama of its emergence, headless, was only exceeded by the following float which appeared to have a group of Brownies being savaged by a demented, bodiless, vulture.

I am sure that some of your people's offers to help this year's Princesses campaign for election for Rose Queen next year were well-meant. However, I don't think our parish really wants a full-blown social media campaign for next year's Rose Queen, and so we will have to decline your offer.

The crowning of the Rose Queen is always a high point to the afternoon, but could I point out that the 'gold' crown is only metal foil, and the 'diamond' sceptre is only a piece of glass? So, whoever it was in your crowd who walked off with them, please may we have them back before next year?

Your loving uncle,

**Eustace**

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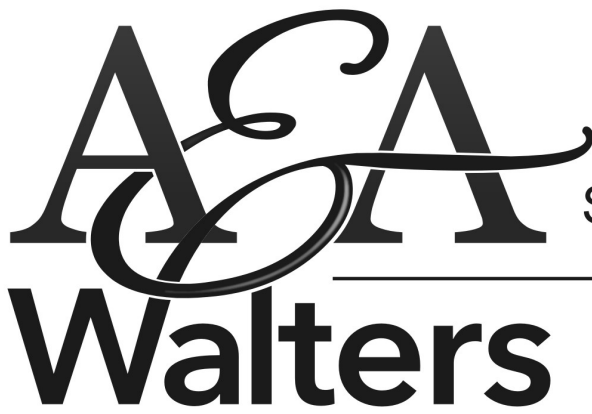
## **FACTFULLNESS** **a different view of the World by Hans Rosling.**

### **A Native American's Prayer**

O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to the World Hear me! I am small and weak I need your strength and wisdom Let me walk in beauty.

And make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice Make me wise so that I may understand and things you have taught my people Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy-myself Make me ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes And when life fades, as the fading sunset, may my spirit come to you without shame.

**Anne Ridge**



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GAIL. 01902 540289 or email [admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk](mailto:admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk)**

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

8am All Saints Communion

9.30am St Andrews Worship Together

10.30 St Peters Communion

10:30 All Saints Communion in church and on facebook and zoom

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

9.30am St Andrews Worship Together

10.00 St Peters Communion

10:30 All Saints Communion in church and on facebook and zoom

### **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May** 10am St Peters Communion

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May** 7:30pm All Saints Communion Ascension Day in church and on facebook and zoom

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

9.30am St Andrews Communion

10.30 St Peters Worship Together

10:30 All Saints Communion in church and facebook and zoom followed by APCM at 12 noon

6.30pm Parish Compline on zoom and facebook

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

9.30am St Andrews Worship Together

10.30 St Peters Communion

10:30 All Saints Communion in church and facebook and zoom

### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

9.30am St Andrews Worship Together

10.30 St Peters Communion

10:30 All Saints Communion in church and facebook and zoom

6:30pm Parish Compline on zoom and facebook