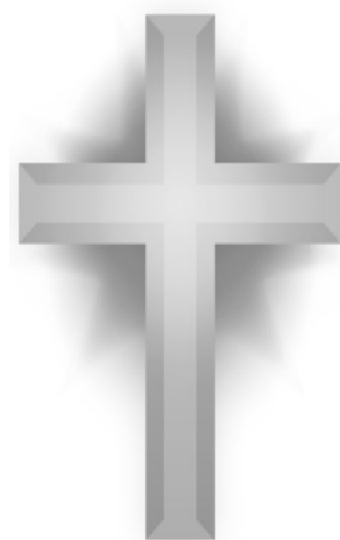
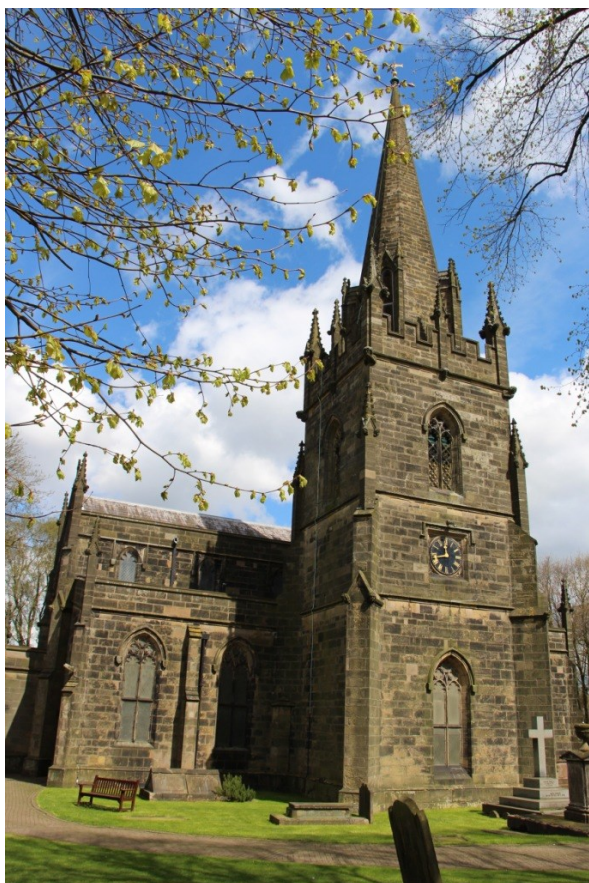


THE BEACON

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

September 2024

PARISH WIDE WHO'S WHO

Vicar	Rev Catherine Mitchell	01902 677897
Licensed Lay Minister	Canon Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Barbara Baker	01902 882847
Pastoral ALM	Tracey Bate	01902 880727
	Sarah Parker	01902 885570
	Kath Apperley	01902 663253
	Joan Sullivan	01902 661094
Worship ALM	Suzanne Bradley	01902 880055
Youth ALM	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
PCC Secretary	Kath Apperley	01902 663253
PCC Treasurer	Sheila Moss	01902 893570
Parish Office	Gail Griffiths	01902 540289
Web Editor	VACANT	

St Peters

Who's Who

Parish Warden	Edward Grist	01902 682786
Treasurer	Sheila Moss	01902 893570
Children's Advocate	Suzanne Bradley	
DCC Secretary	John Powell	01902 880055
Uniformed Organisations	VACANT	

St Andrew's

Who's Who

Warden	Canon Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Treasurer	Alan Turner	01902 670938
DCC Secretary	Rosemary Reed	01902 679007

All Saints Who's Who

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

SAFEGUARDING

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

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

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

Funerals in July/August

July

1st Neville Lewis Benton - Gornal Wood

10th Beryl Eileen Ball - Gornal Wood

30th Lawson Bradley - All Saints

August

8th Audrey May Walton - St Andrews

13th Margaret Martin - All Saints

28th Royston John Round - 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 October magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

Friday 20th September

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

MESSAGE FROM CANON JAN

September is the Month of new beginnings, I know many people will, like me, not have been able to get away on holiday despite really wanting to, hopefully you will have been able to enjoy sitting outside on the few nice days that we have had to enjoy hearing the birds sing , seeing the beautiful flowers, trees and I really love to hear the sound of children playing.

But my mind has turned to as I started New Beginnings .

The children will be returning to school after six weeks off!!! A lot of parents will be very relieved especially those who have trouble organising childcare. For some parents their little ones will be starting school and the first few days are always quite anxious. Children starting senior school, sixth form , College , all can be a little daunting.

Then the students preparing for University ~~ all new beginnings.

As one door closes another Always opens , however sometimes we spend so long looking at the closed door, we forget to look at the one that is opening up for us.

We are very excited that six members from our Parish are to be confirmed, Bishop Martin will be coming to take the service on the 8th of September.

In each of our Three churches we have services every week, and various things going on during the week , to which everyone is very welcome.

In the very beginning God created the world ~ and he sent his own Son into the world, for each and everyone of us .

May God bless us all as we begin a new month a new season, and new beginnings

Canon Jan

Ladies Society – June 2024

This month we were delighted to be visited by Paul Wilmott, who is well known to many of us. Paul is a Children and Family Evangelist and works as part of a network of evangelists who work in a variety of settings – for example, one runs a coffee shop, one works in ports and one works with children worldwide.

Paul told us that he regularly attended Sunday School from the age of three and had heard all of the bible stories. A neighbour took him to evening services as he grew up and he realised that the stories that he had heard as a child were true.

A Church leader invited him to go into a school to talk about God, and Paul talked to us of this experience whilst juggling balls! He has a real talent for entertaining and felt that God was using him and the skills that he had, to communicate with the children.

Paul then introduced us to the kind of activities that he does when he works with children. We started with a “clapping game” and then met Kato – the furriest, funniest, friendliest lion – and Paul and Kato (supported by Barbara) talked about the story of Philip and the choices that he faced.

We were then introduced to a new character – Twist – who features in the YouTube channel, Twistonline. This provides short videos and faith-based questions which you might be interested in looking at. Twist felt that he did not “fit in” and Paul related to this by explaining how God equipped Moses to do the things that He wanted him to do.

Paul’s talk was very engaging but also thought-provoking and it was a delight to listen to him. Thank you, Paul.

The meeting also included a presentation to Jenny Lavender. She and Rob have recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding. Many congratulations to you both.

Our next meeting is on Monday 1st July when it will be the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Ladies Society and we would welcome as many ladies from All Saints', St Andrew's and St Peter's churches to come along to a special afternoon party, between 12 noon and 3pm in the Church Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

Karen Evans



Our Diamond Wedding Anniversary 6th June 2024.

We would like to thank all our friends for their good wishes, cards and gifts on this special occasion for us.

With all our best wishes

Jenny and Rob

Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn	. . .	Crown Him with Many Crowns.
Weatherman's Hymn	. . .	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
Contractor's Hymn	. . .	The Church's One Foundation.
Tailor's Hymn	. . .	Holy, Holy, Holy.
Golfer's Hymn	. . .	There's a Green Hill Far Away.
Politician's Hymn	. . .	Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn.	. . .	Open My Eyes That I Might See.
IRS Agent's Hymn	. . .	I Surrender All.
Gossip's Hymn	. . .	Pass It On.
Electrician's Hymn	. . .	Send The Light..
Shopper's Hymn	. . .	Sweet Bye and Bye.
Realtor's Hymn	. . .	I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop.
Massage Therapist's Hymn.		He Touched Me.

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

55 mph	. . .	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph	. . .	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph	. . .	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	. . .	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	. . .	Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life, And pass it on to other folks.

Mothers' Union

News from the Summer

A lovely afternoon was had by all who came to our Afternoon Tea in July. Everyone enjoyed the tea and the Sedgley Strummers who entertained us. The money raised was shared between All Saints' and St Andrew's churches and £150 sent to the 'Summer of Hope' appeal.

Here is part of the letter I received from Mary Sumner House thanking us for our donation and sharing a heartwarming example of how our gift will have a powerful impact on families:

*Meet Sarah, who participated in a literacy programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Before joining, Sarah was unable to read and write and felt it was not possible to support her children with their learning. Her faith and desire to read the Bible inspired her to join the Literacy group. Sarah explained, **'When my children return from school, they always ask if I have been to my own school.'** Since joining the group Sarah has been able to save and start her own small business, she goes on to share, **'I'm able to pay school fees now. My family is safer and stronger because of this.'***

Your support reaches far beyond individual lives – it impacts entire communities. The Mothers' Union couldn't achieve what it does without such donations.

~~~~~

The Mary Sumner Day service at Holy Trinity, Amblecote was led by Father Alan, who gave an excellent and thought - provoking address, which was followed by a buffet lunch. We were, as always, made most welcome and it was enjoyable to share worship and fellowship with members from other branches. ~~~~~

**Christmas Catalogue!** I have the Mothers' Union Christmas catalogue and will bring it to our September meeting for anyone who wishes to order from it.

Our September meeting is an opportunity to share and reminisce about our 'Childhood Memories'. You could bring an object or photograph or share a fond memory of your childhood.

Dates:

3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2.00pm Childhood Memories

1<sup>st</sup> Oct 12noon Communion & Lunch in Church,

**Liz Williams**

---



**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September  
All Saints' Church  
Sedgley  
10.00am to 12noon  
Come and join us for  
coffee & cakes  
and support this worthy cause**

# **Fair Trade Fortnight 2024 in Sedgley**

## **September 9<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>**

There will be lots going on this year. We are at the Over 50s club at the Community Centre Monday 9<sup>th</sup>, All Saints coffee morning Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, and in church Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Active Retirement group Community Centre on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>. All with stalls so bring your money along and support Fair Trade!

**Thank you, Fair Trade Team**

---

## **Transforming Trade: The difference you made**

This year we have helped form 95 women's groups, trained 20 para-vets and installed safe drinking water systems in two tea gardens, with filtration units managed by the community.

In Northern India we work with factory and homeworkers in the garment supply chain to explore grievances and reports of unfair treatment. Workers share their ideas on how the systems could be changed to make their workplaces safer.

In Tanzania we have trained 1465 farmers in leadership climate resilience and market access. We have identified buyers for honey, sunflowers, fruit trees, poultry and vegetables and arranged a business forum for farmers to link with these new markets.

All this work is made possible through your support of local initiatives, stalls and shops.

Working for a fairer world

# FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT 2024 PLAN

**MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER**

| <b>DATE</b>                     | <b>ACTIVITY</b>                | <b>VENUE</b>                                                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>Stall</b>                   | <b>Over 50s Community Centre 10am – 12noon</b>                  |
| <b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>Stall</b>                   | <b>All Saints Church coffee morning 10.30 – 12 noon</b>         |
| <b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>Stall &amp; FT service?</b> | <b>All Saints Church 10.30am start for 11am service</b>         |
| <b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>Display</b>                 | <b>Library 10am -11.30am</b>                                    |
| <b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Stall</b>                   | <b>Active Retirement session Community Centre 10am -12 noon</b> |
| <b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>   | <b>Stall</b>                   | <b>St Andrews Church</b>                                        |

## **Synod backs motion to affirm the human dignity of disabled children**

The General Synod has backed a motion calling on the government and healthcare providers to ensure that parents of unborn children with a disability are given comprehensive and unbiased information and told what support is available to them.

The motion was aiming to strengthen the church’s witness to the human dignity of all God’s children.

During an emotional debate, members spoke of their personal experience of living with a disability or as parents of disabled children.

Speaking of his own experience as the parent of a disabled child, the Archbishop of Canterbury welcomed the motion saying, “I hope this motion passes, not just because of [my daughter] Ellie, but because of our belief in human dignity.

“The more the Church does, the more we demonstrate to the world that we believe in the cross and the resurrection and the ascension and the ascending of the Holy Spirit. That we take Scripture seriously and we believe in the God who moves in the world in which we live.”



## Eating out

After the fall in Garden of Eden, Adam was walking with his sons Cain and Abel. As they passed by the ruins of the Garden of Eden, one of the boys asked,

“Father, what’s that?”

Adam replied, “Boys, that’s where your mother ate us out of house and home.”

---

## Last words

The Seven Last Words of the Church: “We never did it like that before.”

---



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**01902 882161** or pop in and see us.

---

## **Doubts about the Christian faith? take action now!**

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

You know the story: Thomas was the only apostle not present when Jesus appeared to the disciples on the evening of His resurrection. He refused to believe them. He had seen the crucifixion.

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

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

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

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

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

## Times Past

**ARIS'S BIRMINGHAM GAZETTE**, Monday, September 17, 1798  
Manor of Sedgley, in the County of Stafford

NOTICE is hereby given, that Lord Dudley particularly requests all qualified Gentlemen to refrain from sporting in that Part of the Manor, which lies on the West Side of the Turnpike Road, leading from Dudley to Sedgley; and also, that Part of the Manor which lies on the South Side of the Turnpike Road leading from Sedgley to Gospel End; also, in or near any of his Woods.

W. JOHNSON

Himley Hall, September 8, 1798

**THE STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER**, Saturday, September 3, 1870  
SEDGLEY

At the last meeting of the Dudley Board of Guardians it was resolved that owing to the large increase of the parish of Sedgley and the large extent of the acreage, a relieving officer should be appointed to the upper side of Sedgley at a salary of £55 per annum, and another to the lower side at £85.

**EVENING DESPATCH & BIRMINGHAM GAZETTE**,  
Friday, September 11, 1914

### **STRENUOUS CAMP LIFE**

The 500 recruits of the 6<sup>th</sup> South Staffs. Territorials encamped in Sedgley Park are living a strenuous time, and are gaining strength and vitality by the exercises and the open-air life. Perhaps the most trying operations for the men are the route marches about the district, but they are taken uncomplainingly. Generally speaking, the morning is occupied with marching and the afternoon with rifle instruction.

**BIRMINGHAM DAILY POST**, Saturday, September 16, 1916

Motor – Cars, Accessories, etc., for sale

Singer Light Car, 10 h.p. late 1914; detachable wheels and spare wheel, dynamo lighting, dickey seat. - £180

Douglas Morpuss, Sedgley, near Dudley.

## Arts and Crafts Churches

Originally, the theology behind church building was to build church buildings on higher land, so that people would have to lift their heads to look upon them; with the tower or spire giving it extra height.

This was reflecting the faith of lifting our eyes to God and recognising our place in His Creation – and yet He still came to earth for us.

Often a clock would have been placed on the tower or spire for the local people who would not have had personal time-pieces, and again they would have lifted their eyes heavenward to see it. The clock might have chimed, or would have been connected with the church bells to enable illiterate people to know the time.

There were 612 Commissioner churches built in the early 1800's, when society was becoming industrialised, and folk were moving away from rural life and into towns.

By the middle of that century the Arts and Crafts Movement was well under way, and church buildings were being 'targeted'.

Between 1884 and 1918 there were about 5000 churches built in the UK, of which around 350 can be identified as Arts and Crafts churches. Much depended on the Patron of the church and their generosity.

In East and North Yorkshire there are a set of 17 churches which were restored or built by the local patron(s) – father and son of the Sykes Family of Sledmere House – between 1866 and 1913. They say they are unparalleled elsewhere in Britain.

*This month:*

Have a look at a church near you and see if you can see the influence in it of this Arts and Crafts Movement. It was intended to make buildings less austere, more decorative, more 'emotive'. Do you think it does?



# An Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew

This month we turn to the New Testament and look at Matthew, the first of the gospels. Although linked to Matthew the apostle, it is generally believed that the author used oral tradition, written fragments, eye-witness accounts, as well as common material in the other synoptic gospels (Mark and Luke).

Matthew, in writing for Jews, sets out to prove that Jesus is the true Messiah. He connects Jesus' birth, life death and resurrection with the Old Testament Scriptures. In fact, he quotes the Old Testament more than any other New Testament author. This is reflected in the opening genealogy which traces Jesus back to Abraham; in his use of the terms *kingdom of heaven* and *Father in heaven*, reflecting a Jewish reluctance to use God's name; and in the way he portrays Jesus as the *Son of David*.

The whole gospel is structured around five blocks of teaching (chapters 5-7; 10; 13; 18; 24-25). This fivefold division reflects the structure of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament).

Matthew provides a comprehensive context by which we see all God's creation and salvation completed in Jesus, and all parts of our lives (work, family, friends and future) completed in Him. At the end of his gospel, Matthew records Jesus' commission to His disciples share this good news, promising to be with them:

*'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'* (28:18-20)



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# The 'Father of English Medicine'

Four hundred years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1624, Thomas Sydenham, the English physician who became known as the “father of English medicine”, was born in Dorset.

His textbook on medicine, *Observationes Medicae*, became the standard medical textbook in England for the next 200 years.

Sydenham came from a Puritan family, and his medical studies were interrupted by his fighting for the Parliamentarians in the Civil War. He had a deep Christian faith and believed in simple remedies based on natural theology. His treatments contrasted with many of the complex, speculative prescriptions of his time.

His work generally led to a more scientific approach to medicine, and he was compared to Hippocrates, the ancient Greek 'Father of Medicine'. When he studied medicine at Oxford, he became a friend of renowned chemist Robert Boyle and philosopher John Locke.

Sydenham had an astute and courageous mind that rejected much of the received wisdom of his day. He stressed the importance of observation, stating: “You must go to the bedside.”

One of his achievements was to identify and differentiate scarlet fever and measles, two extremely dangerous diseases at the time. He recommended fresh air and exercise, and also diagnosed St Vitus' dance, sometimes called Sydenham's chorea, for the first time.

He was a founder of clinical medicine and epidemiology, and his treatise on gout – from which he himself suffered – was considered a masterpiece.

He also wrote a book on fevers and treated victims of the Great Plague in 1665, as well as introducing laudanum into medical practice for pain relief.

Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Titus 3:15

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### 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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**Exercise for All**  
*with tracie*

**Wednesday's**

**11.30-12.30**



@



All Saints Church Hall  
Vicar Street  
Sedgley

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## **Cucumber**

A small boy asked his mother for a cucumber to take to Junior Church.

A slightly puzzled mother complied. Later she asked what it had been used for. "Sorry, mum," he confessed. "I got it wrong.

We were supposed to bring a newcomer."

## **How having faith in God can help you here on earth**

Anglicans are more likely to say that they are satisfied with their lives, and many older churchgoers say that they never feel lonely.

A recent survey for the Belonging Forum, which supports dialogue between faiths, has found that there is a strong association between belonging to a faith group and having greater well-being and health.

The survey found that religious people have higher levels of 'social connectedness' and friendships than the general population. They are more likely to speak with their neighbours regularly, and to have on average more friends than non-religious people do.

It seems that faith communities can play an important role in providing a sense of belonging and purpose in the UK.

## How are you? I hope you are well?

*Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Titus 3:15*

I sometimes receive emails from complete strangers who ask me how I am, and sometimes they add that they hope I am well. The person adds a '?' although it is not a question (and I suspect they are not at all interested in my well-being, but in my money!)

'How are you?' is normally just a way of saying 'hello'. No-one really wants an answer and definitely not a long, detailed answer! It is curious that we sometimes start a conversation with a question we do not want answered, and other times when we *do* want to know how a person is, we never quite get through to them.

It is easier to say, "Yes, fine thanks, how are you?" - when we are not fine. Or we can throw the question straight back: "I am ok, what about you?" But sometimes we all need to be able to say, "I am *not* doing ok. I need to talk," when we need to have someone to talk to.

I like it that nowadays you can say a key phrase that sounds out a distress call. For example, victims of abuse can ask "Is *so and so in?*", in a pub or café and the staff will immediately know that that person needs help. There is also a silent hand signal that people in trouble can give, to alert others that they are in danger. This is also excellent, and may have saved many lives.

Perhaps in church we also need a way of being honest in our replies, whether it is: "I am not doing well and I want to have a rant" or "I am worried but I am not ready to chat now".

Anyway, how are you? Do tell.

# 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**

**19th September — “Singing in the Rain”**

Refreshments 1.30pm

If interested, please contact Gail 01902 540289  
[admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk](mailto:admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk)



# Reeling In Years Programme

All Saints Church Hall

Refreshments at 1:30pm

Film starts 2pm

July 18th

Annie Get Your Gun 1:47

\*\*\*

August 15<sup>th</sup>

The Lavender Hill Mob 1:17

\*\*\*

September 19<sup>th</sup>

Singing in The Rain. 1:43

\*\*\*

October 17<sup>th</sup>

Calamity Jane 1:41

\*\*\*

November 21<sup>st</sup>

Paris When It Sizzles 1:46

\*\*\*

December 12<sup>th</sup>

The Gang's All Here

\*\*\*

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# Noah's Ark

Thank you to all the parents of the children who came to Noah's Ark for our end of term party.

We did not want contribution's towards the food on the day, instead we asked if items could be bought in for our local food bank.

As you can see from the photo we had an amazing response.

Thank you to the balloon lady and especially all the volunteers who come in every week to set up and help out.

Permission has been granted to share with you some of the photos from the party.

If you are interested in joining us from September

please contact 01902 540289.





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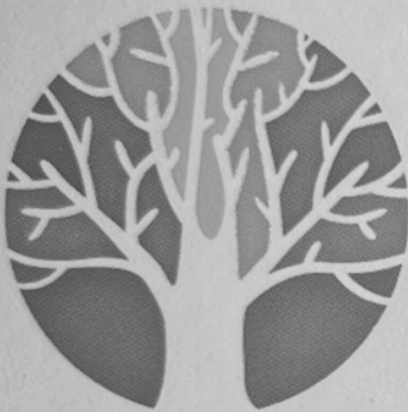
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My dear Nephew Darren

I am surprised you are considering buying a new set of hymn books for your church. I had assumed everything you sang would be projected on to one of those screens which are invariably placed to obscure the altar. In my – fortunately limited – experience of such devices, they provide the projectionist with endless opportunities for showing the wrong hymn, or the right hymn but from another edition, which will contain either one verse too many or one too few. Should the hymn run to two pages, then the turnover always takes place some milliseconds after that verse has started, so that the congregation is faced with the snap decision of either trying to sing two lines at double time, or just to join in late, making a nonsense of the words.

When we decided to change hymn books some years ago, the reverberations made the consequences of that little event in Sarajevo seem insignificant. The proposal was to move from Hymns Ancient and More Ancient to the more recent version: Hymns Ancient and Slightly Less Ancient.

Colonel Wainwright said he would be happy so long as we continued fighting good fights and urging Christian soldiers onwards. The men wanted the hymns they remembered from school, the ladies those they sang at their weddings, and no one would consider anything that dropped ‘thynes’ or ‘wouldsts’. The basses in the choir wanted hymns they knew the tenors found difficult and those who couldn’t read music wanted more hymns sung in unison. When a rumour started that the books may contain hymns written in the last 50 years, timetables were consulted for bus services to the next village.



Eventually we reached a perfect compromise: doing something which made no change whatsoever. Miss Simpson was charged with buying yards of sticky backed plastic and repairing the current books. She put a note on the front of every copy that if the page for the hymn they wanted was missing, they should share with the person sitting next to them – an experience which will be almost as traumatic as being invited to pass the peace. Yet another decision has thereby been deferred for a Church Council to make some time next century. Harmony reigns once again.

Your loving uncle,

---

## **BEWARE LOAN SHARKS!**

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You can leave your details if you wish, but that is entirely up to you; you can choose to send the information anonymously.

Please do not approach the shopkeeper/owner of the noticeboard – they have done nothing wrong.

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# SERVICES FOR THE MONTH - SEPTEMBER

## **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

St Andrews Holy Communion 9.30am

All Saints Holy Communion 11am

All Saints Evensong 6.30pm

## **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

St Peters Holy Communion 10am

## **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

All Saints Holy Communion 8am

St Andrews Worship for All 9.30am

St Peters Worship for All 10am

All Saints Holy Communion 11am

All Saints Confirmation Service 6.30pm

## **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

St Peters Holy Communion 10am

## **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September**

St Andrews Worship for All 9.30am

All Saints Family Service 11am

## **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

St Peters Holy Communion 10am

## **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

All Saints Holy Communion 8am

St Andrews Worship for All 9.30am

St Peters Holy Communion 10am

## **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

St Peters Holy Communion 10am

## **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

All Saints 8am Holy Communion

St Peters Team Service 10am