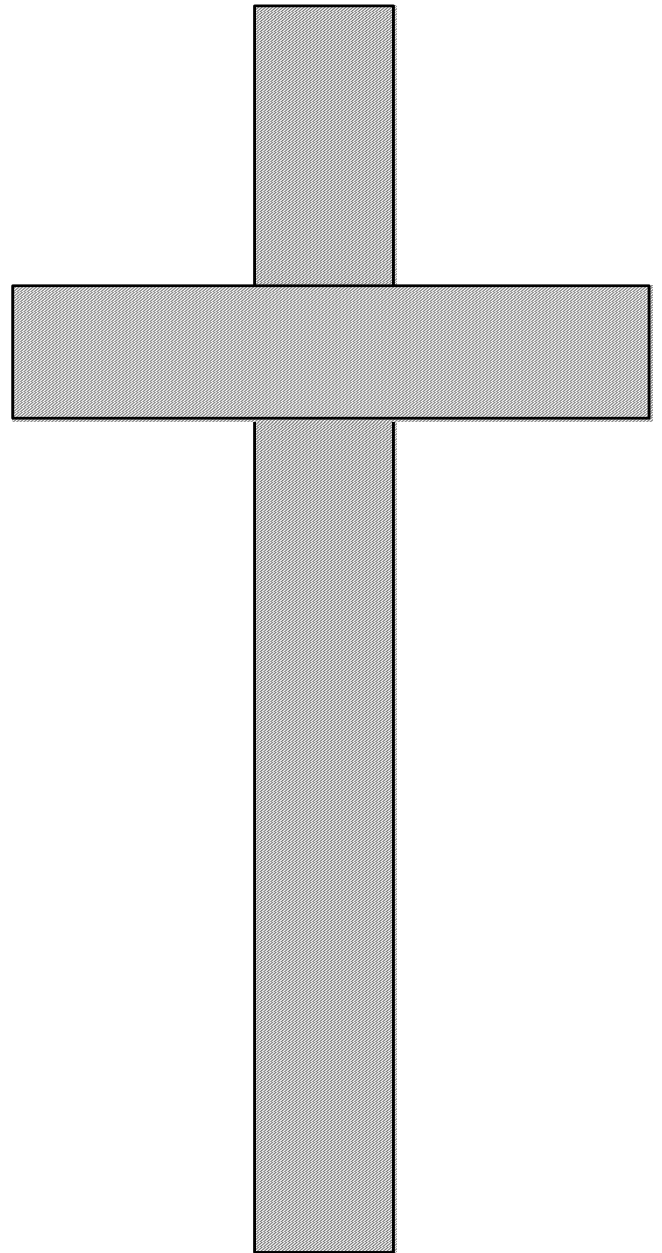
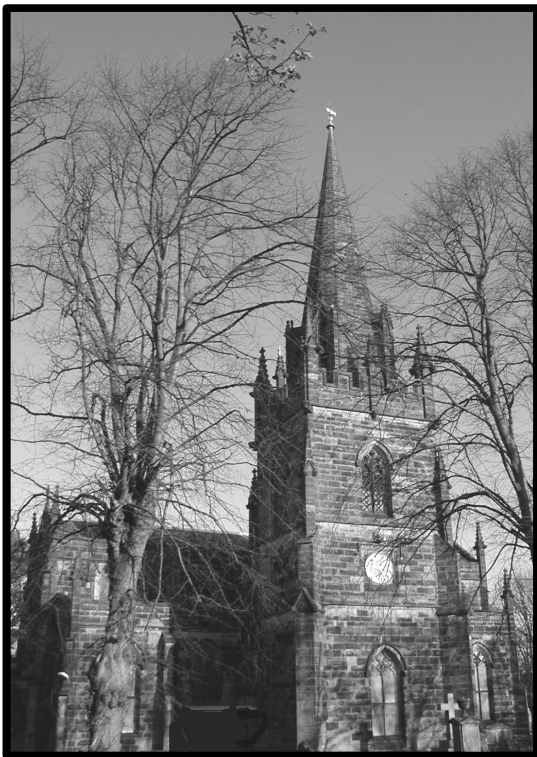


# ***THE BEACON***



**50p**



**May  
2012**

**The Parish Magazine of  
All Saints' Sedgley & St Andrew's The Straits**

**“Learn from yesterday,  
live for today,  
hope for tomorrow”**

**Albert Einstein**

**For over 100 years you have been helping  
local people with sight loss**

This year you helped Anne-Marie to ride a bike on her own for the first time, you helped Frank leave his house each week to meet his friends for a cup of tea and a chat and you helped William receive the care and support he needs every day.

Making a gift to us in your will can make a big difference for people like Anne-Marie, Frank, and William.

**Make your last gift really count**

**Live for today but be their hope for tomorrow**



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Charity Registration No 216092

## **ALL SAINTS', SEDGLEY**

### **Sunday Services**

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
10.30 a.m. Parish Communion  
(First Sunday: All-Age Worship)  
6.30 p.m. Evensong (BCP)

### **Weekday Services**

- Monday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
Wednesday 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion  
(1st Wednesday: Healing Service)

## **ST ANDREW'S, THE STRAITS**

### **Sunday Service**

- 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
(1st Sunday: Morning Prayer)

### **Weekday Service**

- Wednesday 7.00 p.m. Holy Communion

## **THE STRAITS CHURCH**

### **Sunday Services**

- 9.30 a.m. Prayer & Communion  
11.00 a.m. Family Service  
6.00 p.m. Evening Prayer

(When there is a fifth Sunday in the month the three churches in the Team Ministry meet for a united service at either 9.30 a.m. or 10.30 a.m. depending on the venue.)

### **Baptisms & Weddings**

Arrangements for baptisms and weddings at All Saints' and St Andrew's can be made at the Vestry Hour at All Saints', which is held on Wednesdays at 8.00 p.m. in All Saints'.

Baptisms are generally held on the fourth Sunday of the month at 4.00 p.m. at All Saints', and on the second Sunday of the month at 3.00 p.m. at St Andrew's. Baptisms can also take place during the Sunday morning service at All Saints' or St Andrew's by arrangement.

## **WHO'S WHO AT ALL SAINTS' & ST ANDREW'S**

### **GORNAL & SEDGLEY TEAM MINISTRY**

Team Rector (Day off Friday)	The Revd Stephen Buckley	01902 883255
Team Vicar (Day off Monday)	The Revd Andy Stand	883467
Asst Curate (Day off Friday)	The Revd Rob Parker-McGee	01384 860525
Reader	Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Authorised Lay Minister	Suzanne Bradley	880055
PCC Secretary	Suzanne Bradley	"

### **ALL SAINTS'**

Parish Wardens	Rob Lavender	01902 661325
	Derrick Turner	895066
DCC Secretary	Pam Hunt	670787
Treasurer	Derrick Turner	895066
Electoral Roll	Liz Williams	672880
Organist	Mel Jones	0121 550 1604
Bell Ringers	Keith Williams	01902 672585
Servers	Len Millard	676339
Junior Church	Barbara Price	676591
Youth Group	Laura Price	"
Noah's Ark Parent & Toddler Group	Linda Edwards	672556
Hall Bookings	The Vicarage	883255
Hall Caretaker	Joan Moon	682902
Social Club	John Dillworth	670156
Magazine Editor	Christine Buckley	883255
Distribution	Rob Lavender	661325
Advertising	"	"

Cont. over page

## **All Saints' cont.**

Mothers' Union	Liz Williams	672880
Ladies' Society	Geraldine Baker	674608
Men's Society	Roger Berry	881374

## **Uniformed Organisations**

Rainbows	Liz Naylor	01902 885517
Brownies	Heather Churm	07530 977090

## **ST ANDREW'S**

Church Warden	Margaret Probin	01902 883163
DCC Secretary	Rosemary Reed	
Treasurer	Gordon Betteley	882777
Sacristan	May Smith	

## **Little Angels**

Mums & Toddlers	Sarah Parker-McGee	01384 860525
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## **THE STRAITS COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Pastor	Maurice Powell	01902 885402
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**PARISH WEBSITE: [www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk](http://www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk)**

## **CHURCH REGISTERS**

### **BAPTISMS**

#### **All Saints'**

1 April	Jacob Lee Jones-Robbins
22 April	James Joseph Friend

#### **St Andrew's**

15 April	Albert George David Cox
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### **WEDDINGS**

#### **All Saints'**

12 April	Adam Pincher & Laura Wyld
14 April	James Hill & Clare Small
21 April	Aaron Hall & Leanne Whitehouse
28 April	Jason Taylor & Louise Jones
29 April	Neil Holmes & Christine Curtis

Parish registers cont.

## **PARISH FUNERALS**

19 April            Dorothy James, aged 82

## **MAGAZINE MATERIAL**

Articles for the June magazine should be sent to the Vicarage by Sunday 20 May. They may be sent by e-mail to [srb55@talktalk.net](mailto:srb55@talktalk.net).

## **THE BEACON**

If you are interested in having the magazine delivered to your home on a regular basis please contact Rob Lavender: tel. 01902 661325. *The Beacon* is published ten times a year and the cost for the year is £5.

## **MAY FLOWER ROTA**

May 6	Vacant
May 13	Stella Hughes
May 20	May Hackett & Dorothy Inett
May 27	Vacant

### **CHURCH OPENING**



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

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

**We will be pleased to see you.**

## **THE POWER OF STANDING TOGETHER CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 13-19TH MAY**

Christian Aid Week tells the story of a community in Sierra Leone that has seen remarkable change. Tenneh Keimbay's life turned around when the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL) started to work in her town, distributing tools and teaching farmers simple food production techniques. She talks enthusiastically about the difference this has made: 'Now the children eat two meals all year round, whereas before it was one. They are growing well; they don't cry around me because of hunger. They are happy to go to school because something is in their stomach.'

The benefits of regular food speak for themselves. But the effects of the food production group have been more wide-ranging than this. Tenneh speaks of the huge difference working in a group has made to her. Acting together, the farmers can share their skills and work more efficiently. As she tells us, the bottom line is that 'the group work provides more food'. Tenneh speaks of the support and the encouragement that the farmers give to each other, and how much can be achieved when the community comes together. 'What inspires me in life is unity,' she says. 'To me, unity means coming together to decide on one thing and take that forward.'

Now that they are no longer limited by hunger, the people of Gbap (pronounced Bap) have come together and successfully lobbied for a new school and an agricultural work centre for the community. The people of Gbap have taken their future into their own hands.

During Christian Aid Week, 15,000 churches across Britain and Ireland will organise house-to-house collections and events to raise funds to enable organisations like MCSL to carry out their work transforming communities such as Gbap. Christian Aid currently works with 507 partners in 47 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, helping people to make change happen. Our donations will be multiplied many times over as many small actions come together to make a huge change. But the giving that takes place during Christian Aid Week is not one-way.

Unity is something that our churches are not always good at, and the value of community that has inspired Tenneh is something that we can learn from and be changed by. Christian Aid Week is about raising funds. But it is also a call to unity – an invitation for churches to come together and celebrate the possibility of hope and life in parts of the world where mere survival can be a struggle.

This is a challenge, because division and inequality and injustice will always be easier than unity. But Tenneh's insistence that remarkable things can happen when we come together is not new. We see it in the actions and ministry of Jesus, who pushed against all that leads to violence and separation and called his disciples to model a new way of community.

Can we use this Christian Aid Week to allow ourselves to be changed? If we can work together, with each other, with our churches and with our neighbours both at home and as far away as Gbap, then we may start to see huge change happen.

Tenneh says that 'when you are a group and work with focus and total commitment, you work at a faster rate; the stronger ones can help with work that weaker ones cannot do by themselves'. As we engage in Christian Aid Week, we can rejoice as we stand together in solidarity. Although we might ask who is the strong and who is the weak – and who is actually giving to whom.

**Be a part of Christian Aid Week this year: if, together, we take small actions we can give people like Tenneh the tools to make big change happen.**

**£6.50** could buy a set of four hand tools for a farmer living in the town of Gbap.

**£50** could pay for advocacy training for two young people in a Kenyan slum, equipping them with the tools they need to pressure their government to provide essential services.

**£123** could buy a reclaimed aluminium greenhouse for women working on market gardening projects in Tajikistan, providing a vital tool for growing vegetables in a harsh climate experiencing extremes of hot and cold.

*This year All Saints' will be joining the congregation at St Andrew's, Bilston Street on Sunday 13th May at 10.30 am for our united service to mark the beginning of Christian Aid Week. Lists of streets to be covered will be displayed and Christian Aid material will be available in All Saints' on Sunday 7th May and in St Andrew's on the 13th. Please get involved this year, the need never gets any less, and we need to raise as much as possible. If you want to read the reflections of one of our regular Christian Aid collectors look at Jean Fieldhouse's article on page 15.*



## MOTHERS' UNION

Our April afternoon meeting fell in Holy Week and we were pleased to have the Revd Caroline Wickens with us. Caroline's husband Andrew is the Mothers' Union Chaplain. Caroline had prepared an 'Easter Meditation' and the quietness and stillness gave us time to reflect on the events of the week. It was lovely to have Bishop David join us for the afternoon, as it was to walk through Holy Week with him.

We were pleased to welcome Margaret Penn to our Enrolment service on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April when Jan Humphries and Christine Williams were enrolled into the Mothers' Union. Stephen gave a wonderful address reminding us of how Mary Sumner began the Mothers' Union, how it has grown into the organisation we know today and the tremendous work done, both in this country and abroad, to support family life in all its forms. Thank you to all members who came and supported our new members, and to the MU Choir for their beautiful singing.

Tony Page came to our evening meeting to give us Part Two of his talk entitled 'Worcester to the Sea'. He began in Worcester with the well known Guildhall, built as a meeting place for Worcester merchants, and the Worcester Porcelain Factory which was formed on the banks of the River Severn in 1751. The factory produced beautiful porcelain until it sadly closed in 2009. There is still a museum you can visit and find out about such people as Robert Hancock who was the first man to apply transferring of prints onto porcelain.

The Commandery was of particular interest to Tony. Having been the headquarters for Charles II during the Battle of Worcester, it became, in Victorian times, a pioneering school for 'blind sons of gentlemen'. Tony's son is blind and attended New College Worcester, which is the modern equivalent. We visited Elgar's birthplace at Lower Broadheath, just outside Worcester, before moving on to the Aust Ferry. This operated across the River Severn, providing vehicle crossing between the West Country and South Wales, that would otherwise have meant a sixty mile round trip via Gloucester, before the Severn Bridge was opened in 1966. We continued our journey to Upton-on-Severn and Tewkesbury, two picturesque towns which have been affected by flooding, most recently in 2007. Tony's photograph of Tewkesbury Abbey encircled by flood water was one I am sure many of us remember. Further downriver we reached Gloucester where the once thriving docks are now a tourist attraction. Tony completed our journey at the port of Sharpness where the River Severn meets the Severn Estuary and the sea. We had a most informative and enjoyable evening.

Thank you to those of you who donated items to our Lent Collection for the Women's Refuge and to all who supported the Coffee Morning. It was lovely to meet with members from around the Deanery and as always members were most generous with their giving. I would also like to thank members of the congregation who gave items for the collection. We were pleased to have Di, from the Halesowen Refuge, with us to receive the items and bring us up to date with their news.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Dorothy James, our Indoor Member. At the age of 98 years Dorothy was a long serving and dedicated member of the Mothers' Union. When she became an Indoor Member it was a delight to visit her at her home, then at Neville House and latterly at the Woodlands. She will be remembered with love by all the members. We remember Sheila and Michael and their family, at this sad time and pray that their treasured memories of Dorothy will sustain them in the years ahead.

### **Dates**

1 May	2.30pm	Recycling Cards, Susan Price
9 May	2.00pm	Prayer Meeting, St James', Lower Gornal
15 May	7.30pm	'And Another Thing', Jan Humphries
21 May	10.00am	Corporate Communion

*Liz Williams*

## **GRAND JUBILEE RAFFLE**

Thank you to all who have already bought raffle tickets. The proceeds from the Raffle will be shared between 'Help for Heroes' and All Saints' Church ministry. We still have a few books left if anyone feels they can sell some more. The draw will be on Tuesday 5th June.

## **THANKS FOR HOLY WEEK FROM BISHOP DAVID**

Thank you for giving me such a wonderful Holy Week. I was extremely impressed at the number of people who followed the journey from day to day with us. I don't think there were ever less than 50 people, even on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. I got a real sense of how people were enjoying worshipping together across the Team. My particular thanks to our indefatigable sound recordist as well as to the Wardens of the three churches. I am very grateful for the sentiments expressed in the card that was given to me on Easter day, as well as for the book token. Thank you once again for your hospitality.

*Bishop David*

# Flower Festival

'God Save the Queen'

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June to Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June



All Saints' Church, Sedgley

Admission: £3

## **‘GOD SAVE THE QUEEN’**

If you hadn't already heard, All Saints' are holding a Flower Festival in church, from Friday 1st to Tuesday 5th June, to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The flower arrangements will depict events from the decades of the Queen's reign. Local school children's pictures of the Queen will be displayed in church and four primary school choirs will be performing during Friday 1st June. We hope to have a visit from the Mayor on Saturday 2nd June and a Songs of Praise on Sunday 3rd June. There will be refreshments in the church throughout the Festival.

In addition to the Flower Festival there will be an exhibition entitled 'Sedgley's Diamond 60' which will run from Saturday 2nd June to Tuesday 5th June in the Church Hall. This will be sixty years, sixty people, sixty stories about life in the village since 1952. Covering sport, churches, local politics, shops, housing, pubs, social life, health, schools, emergency services, scouts and guides and much more .

This will be a very special occasion and is our way of celebrating the remarkable dedication of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth to her country and subjects. A tremendous amount of work is going into this event, so please bring your family and friends along, and tell your neighbours.

Friday 1st June	10.00am	Blessing of Flowers
	10.30am	Woodsetton School Choir
	10.50am	Alder Coppice School Choir
	11.15am	St Chad's School Choir
	2.00pm	Cotwallend School Choir
Saturday 2nd June		Visit to Festival by Mayor
	7.30pm	Jubilee Concert
Sunday 3rd June	4.00pm	Songs of Praise
Tuesday 5th June		Grand Jubilee Raffle Draw

## **DOUG SMITH**

I would like to thank everyone for your cards, phone calls and flowers following Doug's passing away. Reading your kind words, and knowing your thoughts and prayers have been with me and my family have certainly helped during this time. I am grateful for the time and trouble you have gone to. I also appreciate all the help and support Douglas, and I received over the last few months. You made a difficult situation bearable.

*Joan Smith*

# JUBILEE CONCERT



**Hilary Crowhurst  
with  
The Mothers' Union Choir  
&  
Stephen**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
7.30pm in church**

**Tickets: £6 (available from Joyce Withers & Liz Williams)**

**Proceeds to 'Help for Heroes' and All Saints' Church Ministry**

# LADIES' SOCIETY

## ***THE WIZARD OF OZ at the Mill Theatre***

This theatre visit was our April "Meeting". I don't know how many of our members were there, but we were well represented. This performance I thought was very good, as have been all the Willenhall Musical Theatre productions. The representation of the tornado was brilliant and the acting and singing were of the usual high standard. I certainly enjoyed this performance and I'm sure that the rest of the audience did too.

Our thanks go to Barbara Price as usual for organising this trip. Unfortunately she was not able to attend herself, due to having to undergo an operation in hospital. We do hope Barbara, that by the time you read this article, you will be well on the way to a complete recovery.

Our next meeting, on May 14th, is for our walk at Baggeridge. I'm sorry that I won't be participating as I am not up to walking far these days. Our June meeting, on the 11th, is our annual summer meal out. The venue is a mystery as yet, but it will be revealed in due course. I hope that I shall see you all there.

*Molly Taft*

## **GRAND JUBILEE RAFFLE**



In addition to our 'God Save the Queen' Flower Festival and 'Sedgley Diamond 60' Exhibition we are having a 'Grand Jubilee Raffle' which will be drawn on the final day of the Festival. The proceeds from the Raffle will be shared between 'Help for Heroes' and All Saints' Church ministry. The tickets will be given out after Easter so please help us to support these two causes by selling as many tickets as you can.

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 13TH TO 19TH MAY**

Over the past 25 years, I have experienced the highs and lows of collecting door to door for Christian Aid. It is not easy especially when a door shuts in my face. It's then that I think of all the other doors that open where people are welcoming and donate cheerfully.

As one door closes in my face, other doors are opening all over the world on projects to enable people to help themselves. These schemes help to lift the world's poorest people out of poverty. A few hours of collecting in Christian Aid week can be a most rewarding experience and the bonus, if you choose to collect in your own area, is that you may get to know some of your neighbours better.

Please, please, please give collecting a try this year and help some of the world's poorest people to a better life. We have so much-they have so little!

Collecting for Christian Aid is a small way in which we can demonstrate God's love in action in our own lives. Could you spend a few hours this Christian Aid Week, to help less fortunate people?

*Jean Fieldhouse*

## **DOROTHY JAMES 1913–2012**

I would like to thank Revd Buckley and Revd Parker-McGee for their advice and help in organizing my mother's funeral, and Jane Hartshorne and Liz and Chris Williams for their support to her over the years.

Thank you also to the many members of the congregation who have expressed their sympathy to my family and myself with cards and letters. To know how well she was loved and remembered has been a great comfort to the family.

*Sheila Oliver*

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

To all who donated to the flowers over the Easter period a very big thank you, as always the church is so beautifully decorated. Praise must be given to the Flower Ladies who do all the work on the displays, at Easter and through out the year. Thank you all.

*Rob Lavender, Derrick Turner, Wardens*

## **ASCENSION DAY**

Ascension Day this year falls on Thursday 17th May. We shall climb the tower at 8.00 am, and this will be followed by Holy Communion at 8.30 am.

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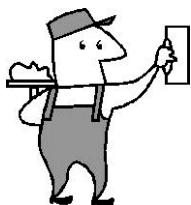
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<b>WEDNESFIELD</b> 11 High Street, Wednesfield, WV11 1SU Tel: 01902 723237	<b>WILLENHALL</b> 12 The Woodlands Centre, Willenhall WV12 5ND Tel: 01922 712153	<b>PENN</b> 276-278 Penn Road, Wolverhampton, WV4 4AD Tel: 01902 330357	<b>WOMBOURNE</b> Church Road, Wombourne, Wolverhampton, WV5 9EZ Tel: 01902 898103

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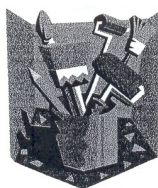
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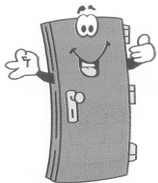


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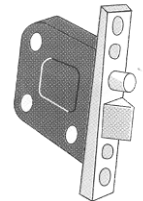
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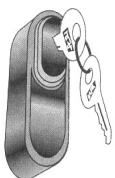


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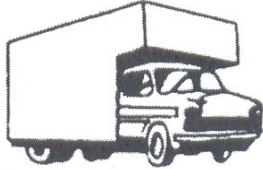
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## INTERCESSIONS FOR MAY

- 1st Philip & James Apostles
- 2nd Teachers of the Faith
- 3rd The Homeless
- 4th English Saints & Martyrs
- 5th The Troubled Continent of Africa
- 6th Kingswinford Deanery
- 7th Medical research
- 8th Julian of Norwich
- 9th "Open the Book" Team
- 10th Church Schools
- 11th Chaplains to the forces
- 12th Church Urban Fund
- 13th Diocese of Peru
- 14th Mathias the Apostle
- 15th Rogation day
- 16th Social Workers
- 17th Ascension Day
- 18th Theological Colleges
- 19th Dunstan Archbishop
- 20th Gornal & Sedgley Team
- 21st Water Aid
- 22nd Refugees
- 23rd Black Country Food Bank
- 24th John & Charles Wesley Hymn Writers & Evangelists
- 25th World Debt
- 26th John Calvin
- 27th Pentecost
- 28th Black Country Urban Industrial Mission
- 29th Residential & Nursing Homes in the Parish
- 30th Josephine Butler, Social reformer
- 31st Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

## AROUND THE PARISH

**Congratulations** to Edwin and Nicky Hopkins on the birth of their son, born 3rd April 2012. Benjamin James Clifford weighed only 4lbs. He is a brother to Bethany. We wish them all well. Benjamin is the fifth grandchild for John and Jean Hopkins. Also on 3rd April Alice Bradley's granddaughter gave birth to a daughter, Iola Rose, who weighed in at 7lbs 11oz. Alice now has four great grandchildren.

**Belated Happy Birthday** to Christina Turner who enjoyed her special day on Friday 6th April; she celebrated with friends on Saturday and tells me she enjoyed her fish and chips.

**Get well wishes** to Jean Round, Kerry Watton and Barbara Price. Jean and Kerry haven't been well for some weeks but we hope it won't be too long before they are back to good health. Barbara is due to go into hospital for an operation, something she is not looking forward to. Please remember them in your prayers.

**Sad News.** It is always sad when someone dies when they are almost 100 years as we seem to expect them to go on and on; but of course that it isn't always possible. Dorothy James died aged 98 years on 2nd April 2012. Dorothy was a member of the Mother's Union for many years. A quiet gentle lady, we send our condolences to Sheila and all members of the family. Dorothy's funeral was held on Thursday 19th April at 10:45am in Church. May the family soon find peace. God be with them all.

**Mothering Sunday.** Once again Junior Church put on a short play during the service. Harry Shaw had made a model called Auto Mum. It worked quite well even issuing crisps out of a slot. I wonder who ate them? Then Thomas hurt his knee then the machine malfunctioned. There's no one like a real mum!

Searching through my diaries of 1987/8/ I came across the following. Mothering Sunday of 1987 we had over 100 children in the two schools, infant and junior. Rosemary Moss made a large iced cake to share with the mums. In those days we met in the church hall in the afternoons. By the following year we had 120 iced cakes made and also served 170 cups of tea to the parents. In the autumn of 1988 the children grew sunflower seeds to raise money for the Children's Society. We collected £167. Jonathan Williams collected the most sponsor money and Elaine and Michelle Tomlinson grew the second highest sunflower. (PS, I also found what I was really looking for).

**Noah's Ark Mothers & Toddlers Easter Bonnet Parade** was excellent. Jane Hartshorne and Jean Turner were the Judges. The winners were: 1st Joseph,

2nd Ted, 3rd, James and 4th Isabelle. Judging by the sounds that were coming through into the kitchen the children certainly enjoyed themselves.

**The Easter flowers** looked lovely as did the cross the children had made in the Good Friday workshop. A record number of children attended as this years total was 51.

**A special request.** Has anyone got the following church magazines? August, September, October 1962. The person who is searching for them has been told after making enquiries at Dudley Archives that they haven't got those particular magazines. If anyone has got them could you let me know as soon as possible. Thanking you in anticipation.

*Dorothy Inett*

## **JUNIOR CHURCH – GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP 2012**

This year's workshop on Good Friday was exceptionally well attended with 51 children registering for the activities. Many adults also stayed with young children, and helpers from Church and the Youth Group assisted with the activities, making the event very successful. Bishop David also dropped in for a visit, making this a very special year for us.

Activities on offer this year included: 'stained glass' windows; Easter cards; Easter baskets; Egg scratchcards; painting; quizzes; colouring for the very young; the ever-popular cake decorating; and our cross which was decorated with daffodil prayers. The children moved from table to table and seemed to enjoy all the activities on offer, leaving some of their work for display in church over Easter. We again took some photos of the activities this year and these were also displayed in church. There was an Easter egg prize draw for registration which was won by Holly Sides. Two further prizes of cream eggs were won by Thomas Wistance and Chloe Rubery.

During the activities, everyone enjoyed refreshments and hot-cross buns. To finish the morning, Stephen came, with Maximus, to tell the children a story about Easter, followed by prayers and songs, accompanied by Mary Zielonka on the piano. Everyone appeared to have enjoyed the morning and left happy and uplifted by the experience.

This year around 20 adults and young people from Church gave up their time to help with the activities and support the event. I am overwhelmingly grateful for their help and support, without which it would not be possible to hold these events. There is no doubt how much pleasure the children get from these activities, which is obvious from the numbers attending each year. This year, being a record attendance, meant that helpers worked extra hard. My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who came to help, and spend time with the children

*Barbara Price*

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### THE LIFE EXHIBITION MON 18 – FRI 22 JUNE

The Life Exhibition will visit Sedgley this June, for the third time. This is a multi-media presentation aimed at Yr 6 primary school children, and we expect some 500+ children to visit the Exhibition. The Sedgley churches have come together to finance this event, and we shall once again be using St Andrew's, Bilston Street as the venue.

As on previous occasions, we shall need volunteers to help with welcoming the children, serving drinks in the café area, and helping with the Exhibition itself, and those of you who helped when the Exhibition was last with us in 2010 will know that your involvement was very worthwhile. If you would like to be involved either speak to me or sign the volunteer lists in All Saints' and St Andrew's.

*Stephen Buckley*

## IS 21ST CENTURY SCIENCE CATCHING UP WITH 1ST CENTURY BIBLICAL REVELATION?

Quite a provocative title – but what did you expect from me? I was fascinated today by the gospel reading from the end of the 24th chapter of St. Luke's Gospel regarding the post-Resurrection appearance of Jesus to his disciples. Fr. Rob's sermon at the morning Eucharist and Fr. Stephen's excellent reading from Bishop Tom Watson this evening only served to foster this fascination. To the late 19th and early 20th century scientists claims regarding Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances must have seemed like wishful thinking to say the least. How could something like a human body pass through a brick wall or a wooden door to appear in a room and later disappear the same way. It must have seemed totally impossible.

To later Victorian scientists wooden doors and brick walls consisted of atoms bound into molecules that formed impenetrable structures. They were considered to be solid molecules structures rather like a pack of ball bearings and the only things that could penetrate them were high velocity rifle bullets or artillery shells. So how could Jesus have possibly appeared through such solid barriers ?

However, science has moved on. What we consider to be an impenetrable substance is in terms of modern science nothing of the kind. Professor Brian Cox (no friend of Christian belief) likens an atom to a nucleus the size of a cricket ball surrounded by a vacant space of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile radius that is occupied by a few miniscule electrons flying around in orbitals. In between there is ample space for sub-atomic particles to fly through; neutrinos do it regularly.

So, if the resurrection body of our Lord was something we do not recognise in terms of 19th and early 20th century physics might it not be something that could pass through doors or walls and eat fish in terms of later scientific discoveries.

We tend to think of our physical universe as something that obeys our limited knowledge of physics across both time and space. Recent discoveries suggest otherwise. The laws of physics may not have been the same when the universe was created as they are now and we have no knowledge if the laws that govern our existence on Earth are the same in other places of our massive universe. Can I tempt my fellow Astonian from St. Andrew's to comment.

*Tony Hart*

## JUST THOUGHTS

Those who do things that count, don't usually stop to count them.

An angry person is seldom reasonable; a reasonable person is seldom angry.

Some people dream of worthy accomplishments, whilst other endeavour to remain wake and just get on and do them.

Love deeply, give unconditionally, grudges are a waste of time, laugh when you can, let go of what you cannot change, take the good with the bad, smile even when you are sad. Love what you have, and learn from your mistakes.

Speak when you are angry, and you will have made the best speech you will never forget, but no doubt wish you could.

Anger is just one letter short of danger.

Sometime you just have to pick yourself up and carry on.

Gratitude turns what we have into being sufficient.

When happiness gets into your system, it's bound to break out on your face.

A racehorse is an animal that can take thousands of people for a ride at the same time.

Real happiness can only be found by unselfishness.

Always begin somewhere you cannot build a reputation on what you intend to do.

To forgive is to let go of pain, not to forgive is to choose to stay trapped in a cell of bitterness serving time for someone else's crime.

It's the tools a person uses, not the tools they possess that makes the profits.

Mistakes are proof you are trying.

You will never find peace of mind until you listen to your heart.

Thank too much and you create a problem that was not there in the first place.

Let your faith be bigger than your fears.

Silence is nearly always golden, but sometimes it is guilt.

Silence may not be the best defence, but it is certainly the most annoying.

Always resolve to do right, this will gratify some people and astonish all the others.

Old age is like everything else, to make a success of it you have got to start young.

Life often offers a second chance, sometime it maybe called tomorrow.

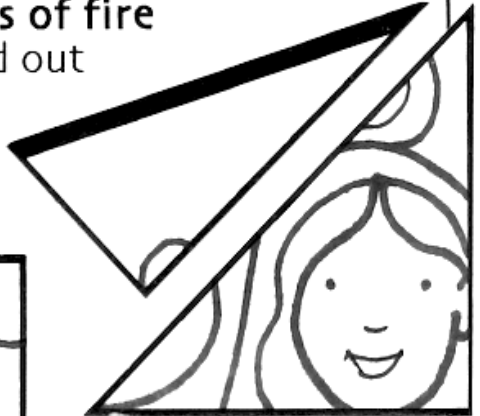
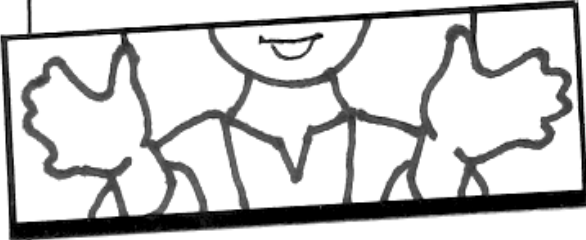
Keep an open mind, but be careful it's not so open that your brain falls out.

**Compiled by David Melhuish**





When the Holy Spirit came at **Pentecost** there was a noise from the sky which sounded like the blowing of a **violent wind** and what looked like **tongues of fire** which spread out and touched each person.

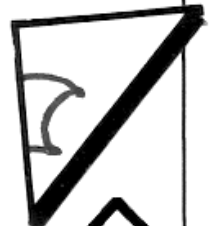
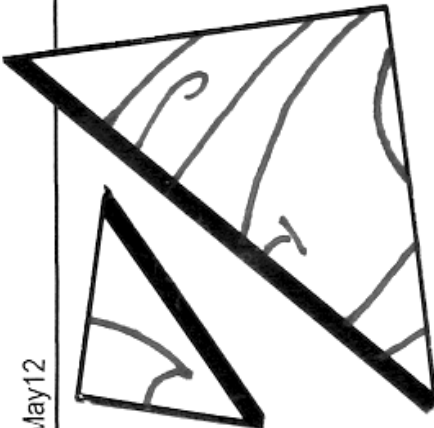
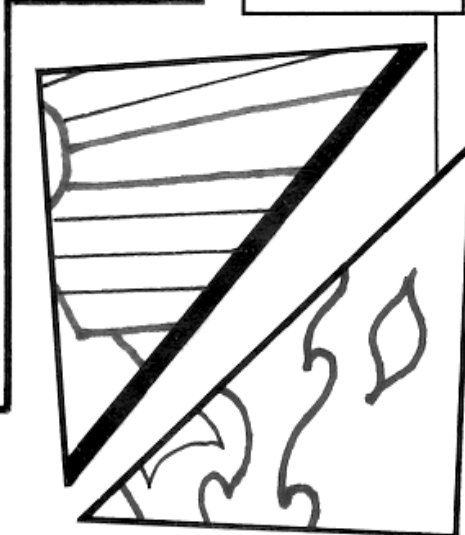


**I  
WILL  
POUR OUT  
MY SPIRIT  
ON  
ALL  
PEOPLE**  
ACTS 2:17

Read the story of *Pentecost* in Acts 2:1-41



**I  
WILL  
POUR OUT  
MY SPIRIT  
ON  
ALL  
PEOPLE**  
ACTS 2:17



The wind has mixed up these puzzle pieces. Cut them out and rearrange into a flame shaped picture →



## DIARY DATES: MAY

Sunday and weekday services at All Saints', St Andrew's and The Straits Community Church are advertised on page 2 of this magazine. Any alteration to this pattern is shown below.

### All Saints'

Tues 1 May	2.30 pm	MU meets in the church hall
Tues 8 May	11.00 am	Funeral in church
“ “	7.30 pm	Baptism meeting in the social club
Sun 13 May	10.30 am	Joint Christian Aid Service at St Andrew's, Bilston Street
Mon 14 May	7.30 pm	Ladies' Society (Walk in Baggeridge Country Pk)
“ “	7.30 pm	Housegroup meets at 9a Turls Hill Rd
Tues 15th May	2.30 pm	Study Group meets in the social club
“ “	7.30 pm	MU meets in the church
Thu 17 May	8.00 am	“Up the tower!”
Ascension Day	8.30 am	Holy Communion
Sat 19 May	1.00 pm	Wedding
Mon 21 May	7.45 pm	Men's Society meets in the social club
Tues 22 May	7.30 pm	DCC meets in the social club
Sat 26 May	2.00 pm	Wedding
Mon 28 May	7.30 pm	Housegroup meets at 9a Turls Hill Rd
Tues 29 May	2.30 pm	Study Group meets in the social club
“ “	7.30 pm	PCC meets in St Peter's church hall

### St Andrew's

Mon 21 May	7.30 pm	DCC meets in the church hall
Tues 29 May	1.45 am	Study Group meets in the church hall

'Little Angels' Mums & Toddlers meets in the hall each Monday at 9.30 am in term time.

St Andrew's 'Silver Threads' (over 60s) meet each Wednesday from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm in the church hall.

### Diocesan, Deanery & Parish Events

Thu 10 May		Archdeacon's Visitation interviews in All Saints'.
Thu 24 May	7.30 pm	Admission of Churchwardens: St John's, Bromsgrove



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