



Sedgley's

Diamond 60

*Sixty years, sixty people,
sixty stories about village life
since 1952.*

Our wedding day at All Saints' Sedgley.

By Gordon Monckton

I was born in Gospel End near Baggeridge Mine, but my first job was as a sheet metal worker – I was the only one in my family not to go down the pit.

Before I married, I did three years in **603 Vehicle Detachment REME** (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers). We used to service the army's vehicles and weapons transporters. It was supposed to be two years' National Service, but by signing on for three years I got an extra pound a week! I left in 1952 and was fortunate enough to go back to my former job.

Before the wedding **Revd William Sargeant** went through the details of the wedding with us as a couple, and gave us a 'pep talk'. He asked me: "When you walk down the street, which side of the pavement does your wife walk?" I told him I'd normally walk on the gutter side and my wife would be on the inside. He was using it as a metaphor to suggest how I should treat my wife in our marriage, ie be protective towards her.

My wife June and I were married by Vicar Sargeant at All Saints' on 25th July 1953. I was a very nervous young man of 23. We held the reception at the old church hall in Dean Street (this was before the present hall in Vicar Street was built). All the family were there plus a few invited guests. It was quite a modest affair but a very good day - everybody enjoyed it. In those days there wasn't much money about – you had to make do with what you'd got.

We could only manage a couple of days' honeymoon in Stourport-on-Severn and I remember we went on a cruise up and down the river. A year after we married we had a little boy, and four years after that another boy.



Revd William Sargeant, Vicar of All Saints' Sedgley, 1946-56.