Sedgley's
Diamond 60
Sixty years, *sixty* people, *sixty* stories about village life since 1952.

1955

All Saints' Church Choir in 1955

by Dan Price

All Saints' Sedgley was always a highly-rated choir – we had a waiting list to get in. In some of the photos of us you'll see a blue ribbon round the neck of the choirboys. The Cross of St George was on it, awarded for excellence by the Royal School of Church Music, St George's Chapel, Windsor. A visiting bishop was so impressed with us that he recommended to the authorities that it be presented. One of our choristers who later went on to sing with St Peter's Wolverhampton choir was called Timothy Hamilton.

We practised on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings; but as I was at school on Saturday mornings, I just did Thursday evenings. I did end up as head choirboy for a short while though. I was at Dudley Grammar School till I was 16. I got a job at Gibbons Brothers Lower Gornal who were constructional engineers for gas plants. There was a choirboys' club that met once a week. Revd Skelding the curate used to run it. We used to go on a couple of trips a year. I left the choir when I was 14 or 15; I'd been in it since I was 8.

I was also a member of No 1 Sedgley Scouts. It was founded in 1910s and was one of the first troops in the country. The original flag used to hang in All Saints' Church - it was a faded maroon colour. We used to meet in Queen Victoria School Hall once a week and have an annual scout camp. There was also a scout band. We used to be the band for West Division, Wolverhampton. I was in the band with Mike Gregory who played the big bass drum.

All Saints' Church Choir in around 1950. Current choir member Kennedy Slater can be seen in front of the banner. Revd Sargeant is the vicar and Revd Skelding the curate. Dan Price is seated in the second row, third from the left, next to Rob Lavender, second from the left.

Rob Lavender and Dan Price in the church choir in around 1950.