



Sedgley's

Diamond 60

*Sixty years, sixty people,
sixty stories about village
life*

1985

1985: The All Saints' Chalice

by Mary Cleaver

The idea of making a chalice was suggested many years ago to my late husband Arthur Beadle by his parish priest (Revd Gilbert) in Cornwall, who saw a copper vase he had made and said: "Perhaps you can make me a chalice."

Eventually, after moving to this area and gaining experience in silversmithing at Walsall Tech, he designed one for All Saints' using bent nails for the stem, thus linking the symbols of the crucifixion and the local nail industry.

He was beset by setbacks. The silver he bought proved faulty and had to be replaced. It was not unusual for classes to be cancelled - or they clashed with hospital appointments - so progress was slow, but the chalice gradually took shape.

Having no safe, Arthur had his own anti-burglar system – a penchant for choosing strange hiding places! Hurrying out one day, he popped the chalice into the washing machine. A pathetic-looking object later emerged with the clean washing, having given me no warning of his actions! With unfailing good humour and infinite patience he spent many hours hammering the bowl back into shape.

At long last the chalice was finished and Revd Bernard Harris was very gracious in accepting it and arranging to dedicate it. The final frustration came as we stood for the dedication prayer. Our two-year-old granddaughter Charlotte fell off her hassock and with the ensuing screams we were denied hearing the words that marked the fruition of his work - but he did have the joy and satisfaction of knowing that the chalice was put into regular use at the mid-week services.

Postscript:

It was 46 years later and long after Canon Gilbert's lifetime that the original request was fulfilled and Arthur made a chalice for St Stephen's Church in Cornwall where, I understand, the artefact is frequently used at Communion.



The silver Communion Chalice made by Arthur Beadle, with a distinctive stem fashioned in the form of nails, which is used every Wednesday evening at All Saints' Church, Sedgley during Midweek Holy Communion.