



**Sedgley's**

**Diamond 60**

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

1996

## The 'Dare to be a Daniel' Sermon by Sheila Kendrick

A well known chorus when I went to Sunday School was:

**'Dare to be a Daniel  
Dare to stand alone  
Dare to have a purpose true  
Dare to make it known.'**

In 1996, the **Revd Eric Petrie** was the Assistant Curate at All Saints' Church. From the pulpit one Sunday he sang this chorus, and preached a sermon reminding us that we are all getting older, and will eventually die; consequently we should strive to welcome young families into the church. His message was that we must have the courage to speak out for change in our church. Ironically, the age profile of our congregation is still very much an issue, 16 years after Eric's sermon.

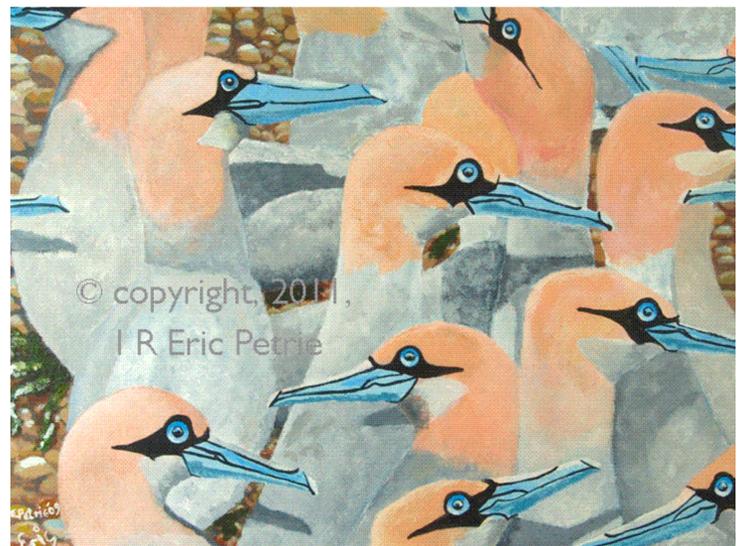
That was not the only matter on which Eric was ahead of his time. He was a strong advocate for creating an area at the back of church for mums and young children, which has now come to pass. He suggested removing a couple of pews for this and putting some carpet down, but at the time his suggestions did not meet with approval.

Eric lived in one of the town houses in The Priory, behind the vicarage. Everyone was welcome there and I recall he made lovely bread. He and his wife Heather had a daughter, Alice, who was aged about seven and a son Aidan who was born during their time in Sedgley. He and Heather designed and made the four banners that we display in church during Advent. (Judith Dunning also helped with these.)

Eric was a kind and generous man. He played the guitar, rode a motor bike, and wore his hair in a pony-tail. I remember he liked to walk to church on Sunday, wearing his long black vestment because he said it was good for people to see a priest going to church on a Sunday.



**Revd Eric Petrie, who was curate at All Saints' church in the mid-90s.**



**Revd Petrie is retired from the clergy and is now a wildlife artist. He lives in Burnham on Sea in Somerset.**