



**Sedgley's**

**Diamond 60**

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

## The funeral of Wolves full back Bobby Thomson

*by Len Millard (All Saints' Head Server)*

I was head server at All Saints' for the funeral of Wolves footballing legend Bobby Thomson, considered one of the finest full backs ever to have played for the club. The service took place on the morning of Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009: BBC Midlands Today and former ATV sports presenter Nick Owen attended the funeral, sitting in church with former Wolves hero John Richards. Mike Bailey, who played alongside him in the Sixties, read the eulogy in front of a packed congregation before the cortege travelled to Penn Cemetery for the burial.

There were over 100 people there: among the former players paying their respects were Peter Knowles, Ron Flowers, Phil Parkes, Steve Daley, Mel Eves, Willie Carr, Derek Parkin and Bert Williams.

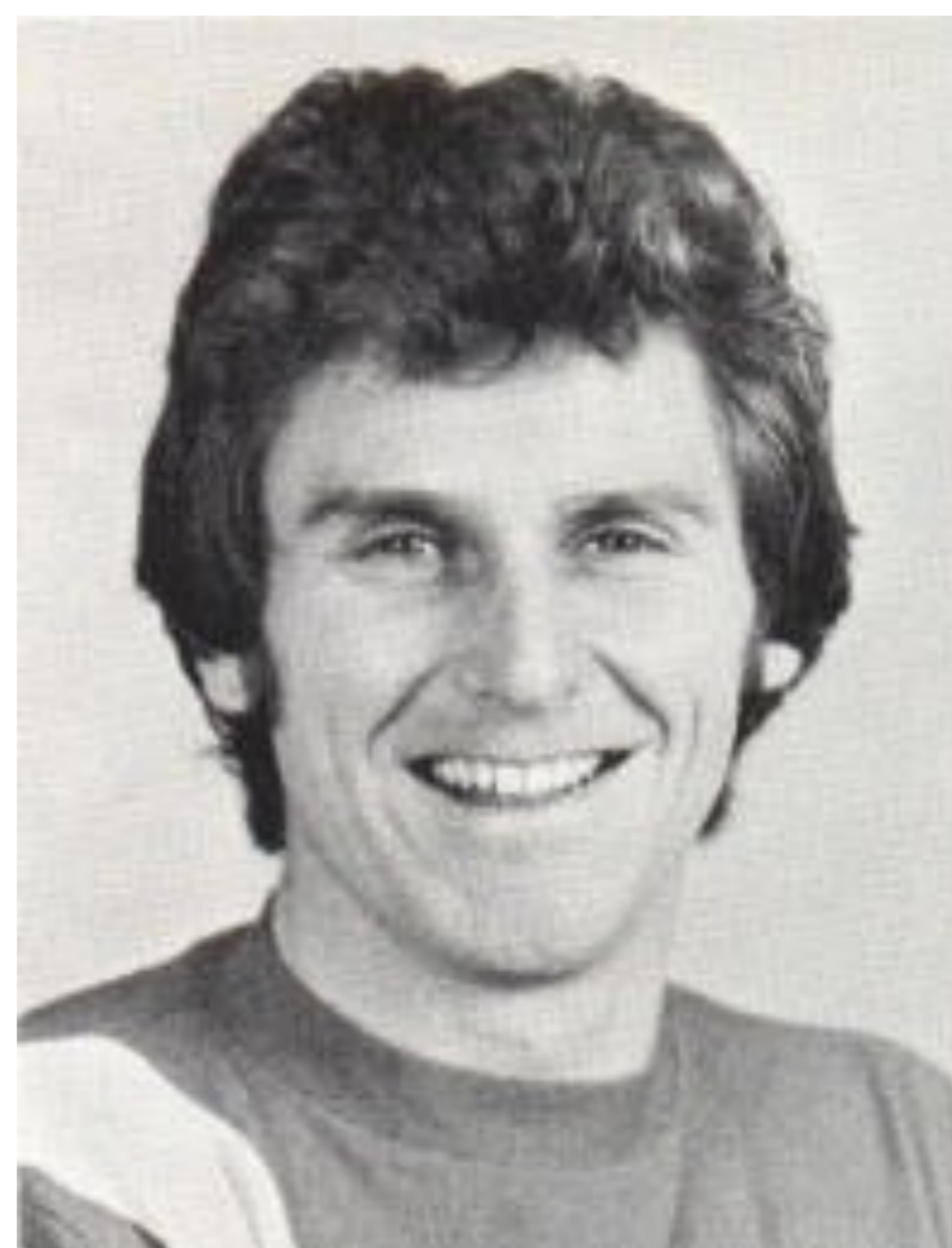
Bobby joined Wolves as a youngster in 1959 and signed professional forms in July 1961. His debut was in 1962 and he played for them throughout the 60s, making 278 appearances in the latter years of Stan Cullis's 16-year managerial reign.

His best finish with Wolves was 5<sup>th</sup> in the First Division in 1962-3. He made the first of eight international appearances for England in the 8-3 Home International victory over Northern Ireland in November 1963. In 1969 he was transferred for £40,000 to Birmingham City, playing for them 63 times until he left in 1972. After spells with other clubs he managed a side in the US and also Stafford Rangers in the Midlands.

Overall he made 478 appearances in the football league. After retiring from playing he ran a sports shop in Sedgley where Greggs now is. In retirement he lived in High Park Crescent in the village.



**Bobby played for Wolves 1962-69**



**He played in the North American Soccer League in the late 70s**



**Bobby Thomson's funeral at All Saints' Sedgley in August 2009**